PRIVATE EYE

No. 1085
25 July –
7 August 2003
£1.30

BLAIR'S DAY OF SORROW

NOT INSIDE: ARCHER

CRÉATEUR D'AUTOMOBILES

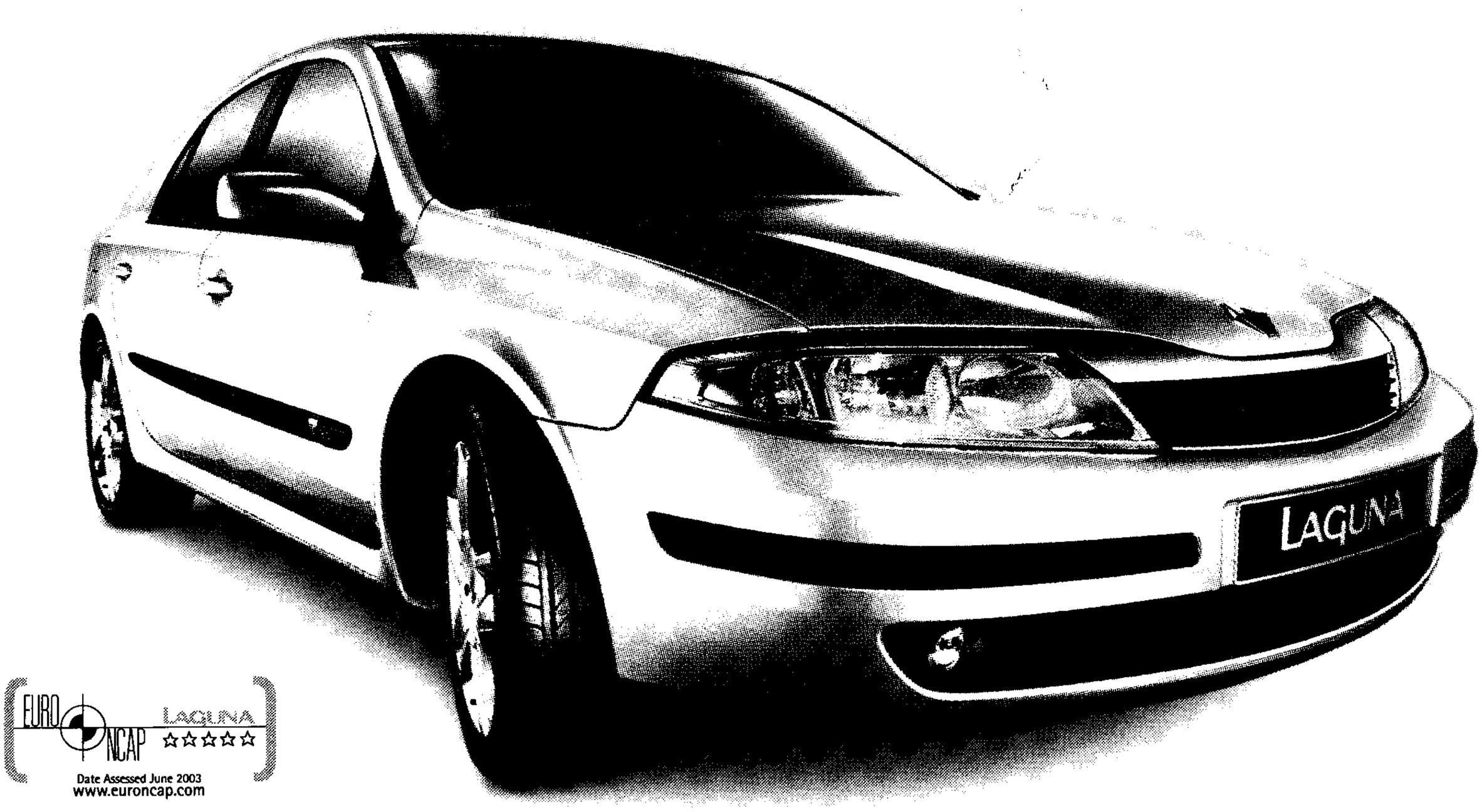
RENAULT LAGUNA

With a 2.0 litre 165 bhp turbocharged engine, 17" alloys, Alcantara/leather seats and a satellite navigation system, it's no wonder everyone wants to get behind the wheel of the new Laguna Dynamique Techno Hatchback. Even if it means resorting to a few tongue twisters. For more details about the highest scoring car on safety in its class (as awarded by Euro NCAP), call 0800 52 51 50 or visit www.renault.co.uk

SERIOUS PLAYTIME

Red lorry, yellow lorry.

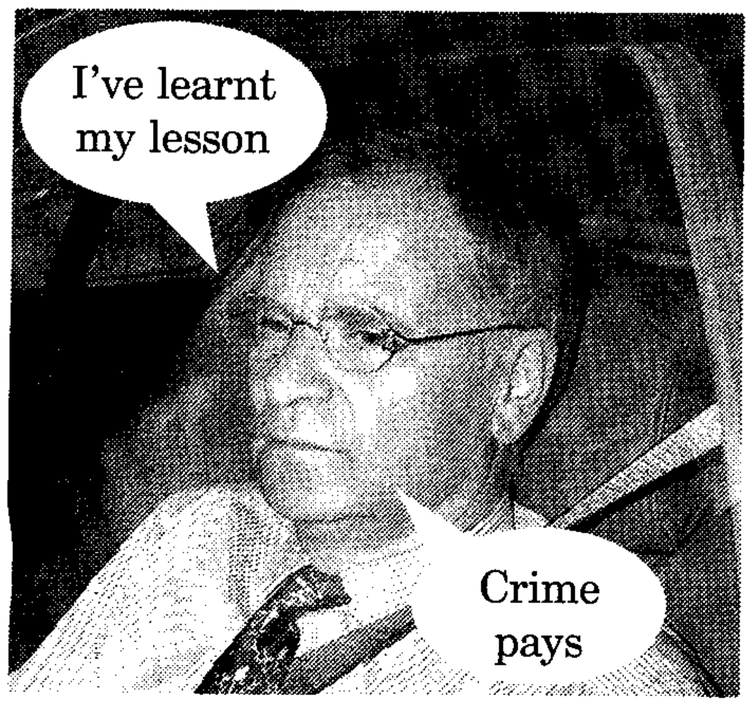
(You may need a way to decide who drives.)

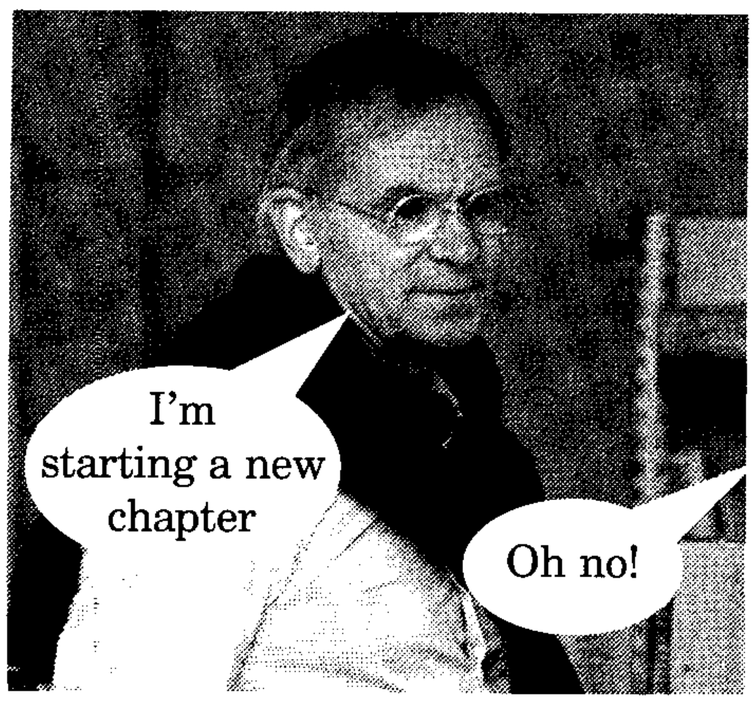


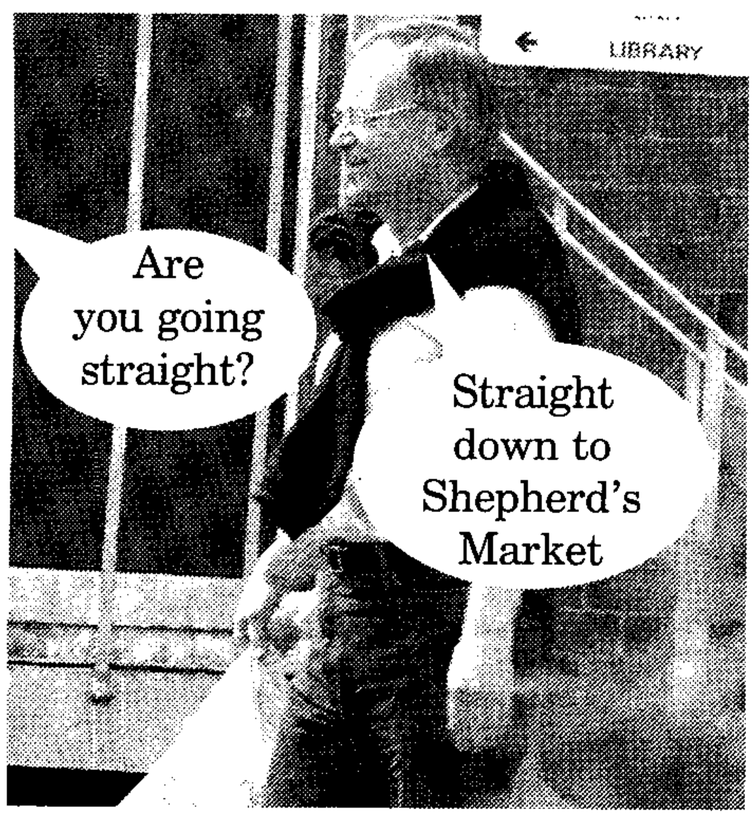
EURO NCAP LAGUNA ☆☆☆☆☆
Date Assessed June 2003
www.euroncap.com

RENAULT F1 The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the 2.0 T 16V are: Urban 24.8 (11.4), Extra Urban 44.1 (6.4), Combined 34.4 (8.2). The official CO_2 emission is 196g/km.

LORD GNOME IS OUT







EDITORIAL
6 Carlisle Street, London W1D 3BN. Tel: 020 7437 4017. Fax: 020 7437 0705. **Email:** strobes@private-eye.co.uk
http://www.private-eye.co.uk

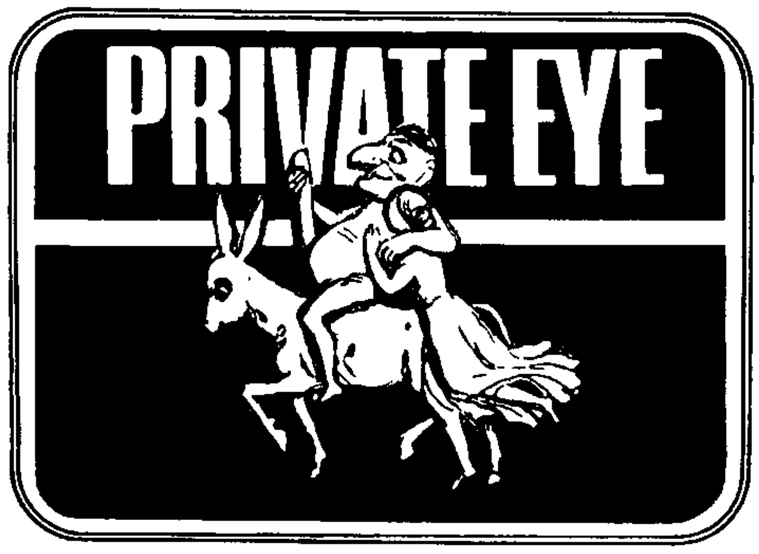
PRIVATE EYE SUBSCRIPTIONS/SALES
PO Box 326, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8FA.
Subscription enquiries: 0870 750 1714
Fax: 01795 414 555. Overseas: 01795 414 871
Special Reports: 0870 750 1711 **Books:** 0870 750 1712
Email: private-eye@galleon.co.uk

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
£19 per annum. Europe and Eire £27. Airmail (rest of world) £35. Cheques/POs to Private Eye. Mastercard/Visa.

ADVERTISING
020-7923 5402

Published by Pressdram Ltd, 6 Carlisle Street, London W1D 3BN. **Printed** by BGP Ltd, Bicester OX6 7QZ . **Distributed** by P.E. Distributions, 6 Carlisle Street, London W1D 3BN. 020 7437 4017.

ABC



IF ONE thing is certain, it is that after any appalling event hacks will quickly announce that nothing can ever be the same again.

Nick Assinder, political correspondent of BBC News online, duly obliged. "If one thing is certain in the wake of the tragic death of David Kelly it is that politics in Britain has changed forever," he wrote. "The long term effects of this tragedy must surely be to force all those who participate in politics to look long and hard at their behaviour… It is now unthinkable that, once this horror has passed, we will all simply go back to our old ways."

This may sound familiar to anyone who recalls all those chastened yet self-righteous editorials after the death of Princess Diana. The *Daily Mail* went so far as to announce "*Mail* Leads the Way in Banning Paparazzi Pictures" – before swiftly returning to business as usual, running countless long-lens photos of bikini-clad celebs snogging on beaches.

Still, Assinder was right in guessing that politicians and hacks wouldn't go back to their old ways "once this horror has passed": they did so straight away. A screechingly hysterical rant from Peter Mandelson, a sanctimonious sermon from Gerald Kaufman – everyone behaved exactly as before, blithely ignoring Tony Blair's appeal for "some restraint and some respect" and the comment from Kelly's family that "events over recent weeks made David's life intolerable and all those involved should reflect long and hard on this fact".

Long reflection has never been the forte of Paul Dacre of the *Mail*. After years of remorseless BBC-bashing, he now refuses to print a word against the corporation on the grounds that if Alastair Campbell hates the BBC then it must be beyond reproach. (The idea that both sides might have made mistakes is clearly too difficult a concept for a Manichean editor to understand.) Thus Monday's *Mail* carried five pages of articles attacking Geoff Hoon and demanding his resignation, but hardly any criticism of the BBC.

Conversely, the Murdoch press has been slavishly defending the government, as the quid pro quo for Blair's favours to their proprietor. (See "Getting away with Murdoch", p27.) "It is now the BBC that appears to have deliberately deceived viewers, listeners, its board of governors and parliament," Tom Baldwin, one of Alastair Campbell's favourite political correspondents, wrote in Monday's *Times*. An accompanying editorial insisted that the BBC governors must "ask themselves tough questions".

"The death of Dr David Kelly is a terrible tragedy for his family," the *Sun* had remarked on Saturday. "But no one is to blame for his apparent suicide." By Monday it had already abandoned this uncharacteristic pose. "Today, a decent family man lies dead," it thundered. "The BBC is in the gutter." There was no mention of the role played by Geoff Hoon and his staff in revealing the identity of David Kelly.

If the BBC is in the gutter, where is Rupert Murdoch's Sky News? By sublime irony, it was a BBC documentary last week which revealed that during the Iraq war Sky hack James Forlong sexed up – indeed faked – a dramatic despatch apparently showing a cruise missile being fired from the submarine HMS Splendid.

"How can we ever trust the BBC again?" the indignant *Sun* now asks, claiming that Gilligan "completely distorted what the scientist told him". Curiously, however, although Sky News's own trust-shaking distortion was reported in most national newspapers, no word of it has appeared in the *Sun*.

The wages of spin
- **Niger forgeries: *Eye* told you so** 4
- **Flushed with pride? PFI down the pan** 10
- **More utter drizzle from the River Café** 24
- **Handout heaven: Free corporate cash** 26
- **Coming to C5? The Tony 'n' Rupe Show** 27
- **Anthony Julius: Losing a mint for charity** 28

ANDREW MACKINLAY, Labour MP for Thurrock, came under fire for his cross-examination of scientific adviser Dr David Kelly during the latter's ill-fated appearance before the foreign affairs select committee.

However, unlike defence secretary Geoff Hoon, MacKinlay was one of the first to apologise to the Kelly family, saying: "I deeply regret Dr Kelly's death. I am sorry for any stress that albeit unintentionally I may have caused him during his questioning before the select committee."

Though the apology may have been welcome, it was in fact MacKinlay who correctly identified the hapless Dr Kelly as a scapegoat; and it was he who stood up to the thunderous pressure to follow colleagues Eric Ilsley and Greg Pope into exonerating Alastair Campbell from the "45 minutes charge" and turning the heat instead on to the BBC.

"New" Labour's enforcers can do nothing to MacKinlay, however, since it was the Thurrock MP who took the rostrum at last year's Labour party conference to help defeat a left-wing resolution calling for no war against Iraq. MacKinlay instead supported a resolution that called for any military action to be taken in accordance with the United Nations.

In common with many others in the PLP, he had been persuaded that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction and might be prepared to use them – weapons that were never used and still have to be discovered.

PS: Lord Hutton's inquiry into the circumstances that led to Dr Kelly's death conveniently lets Tony Blair off the hook again. Having finally been forced into granting one independent inquiry, albeit one that is likely to have strict parameters, the clamour for an independent judicial inquiry into the run-up to the war itself may well die down.

LESS than a quarter of prisoners who maintain their innocence are ever granted parole, largely because they are unable to take part in offending behaviour programmes or show any remorse for their crimes.

It's a quirk of the criminal justice system which has stolen years from the lives of men such as Satpal Ram, David Blagden and Stephen Downing, caught up in notorious miscarriages of justice.

Lord Archer gains his parole from Hollesley Bay Prison this week plotting a legal vendetta against those who landed him inside for perjury and perverting the course of justice. His hit-list is said to include Baroness Emma Nicholson, whose allegations about Archer's Simple Truth charity led to a criminal investigation of the disgraced peer; trial judge Sir Humphrey Potts; and of course secretary Angela Peppiatt, his former secretary whose evidence clinched the trial.

Not much remorse there then.

"Get me a spin-coroner!"

***EYE* readers must be bemused by the recent tidal wave of publicity over what is now known as the Niger Forgeries. Back in March, before the invasion of Iraq even, the lead story In the Back (*Eye* 1076) was WEAPONS OF MASS DECEPTION: THE NIGER FORGERY.**

We traced the history of the deception back to the now infamous British government dossier in September which, according to prime minister Tony Blair, "established beyond doubt that Saddam continues in his efforts to develop nuclear weapons" and which revealed "intelligence that Iraq had sought the supply of significant quantities of uranium from Africa" whose only purpose can have been to manufacture nuclear weapons.

This "intelligence" was passed on by the crack spooks in MI6 to their American counterparts (the CIA) and even managed to weave its way into President George Bush's historic state of the union speech in January. *Whoops!* Not long after Bush's speech, the so-called "intelligence" about uranium from Africa was handed to the International Atomic Energy Authority whose experts took a few hours to discover that the documents on which it was based were crude and obvious forgeries.

Two issues later, *Eye* 1078 returned to the subject, citing an article by the US investigative journalist Seymour Hersh who traced the forged "intelligence" to the British secret service, and quoted a foreign office spokesman sticking firmly to the September dossier despite the forgeries. The FO spokesman explained that the forged documents had been "separately acquired" though "not from UK sources".

Throughout the furious controversy that followed, government spokesmen have stuck firmly to the story that there was "other intelligence" apart from the forgeries that, to quote Blair again, "established beyond doubt that Saddam continues in his efforts to develop nuclear weapons". But no minister or spokesman has revealed what that intelligence was.

Not long after these articles the Niger forgery shit hit the fan, and the various intelligence services started to leak information damaging to their governments just as fast as the government information services leaked information damaging to the intelligence services. Sir Rodric Braithwaite, former head of the joint intelligence committee, wrote to the *Financial Times* (10 July) with a devastating account of what he called "the campaign to win round a sceptical public" to the case for war.

This campaign, he alleged, was not just conducted by dodgy dossiers, but by government warnings "that British cities might at any moment face a massive terrorist attack"; by advice to housewives to stock up on food; and even by a mobilisation of tanks at Heathrow airport, all of which created "an atmosphere of near hysteria". Elsewhere, Bush blamed the CIA; Alastair Campbell blamed the BBC; and the BBC blamed the intelligence services. From the fantastic welter of publicity that ensued, a few important facts emerge and a few even more important questions remain unanswered.

The Niger documents about the sale of uranium to Iraq have now been published in full in the Italian newspaper *La Repubblica*. The documents were "obtained" (and passed on to the newspaper) after an illegal break-in at the tiny Niger embassy in a scruffy area near the Stazione Termini in Rome. Re-published in the *Guardian* and other papers, the extent and absurdity of the forgeries is now painfully clear.

Not only are some of the names wrong (or of officials long out of office) but one document is stamped "received" before it was allegedly sent. Yet these ham-fisted forgeries found their way from the Italian secret service to MI6, presumably on the ground that MI6 was the intelligence organisation least likely to check them. Rather than check the documents, indeed, MI6 passed them on to the CIA and on they went from there to Bush's state of the union speech in congress.

On 20 July a "foreign office source" told the *Sunday Times* that the intelligence about Niger was not based on the Italian documents but on briefings by French intelligence agencies, which have unrivalled sources in West Africa. This was immediately denied by the French who said they had given no such briefings.

The questions that still have not been answered are a) Did MI6 spooks pay their Italian counterparts taxpayers' money for the documents, and if so how much? b) Did anyone check the documents for any of the ludicrous mistakes and forgeries in them? c) If yes, why were the forged documents passed on to the CIA? If no, why should anyone ever again believe a single word or document produced by MI6?

ARE foundation hospitals just a preparation for privatisation? The government says no; but the privatisers seem to have different ideas.

In June, while MPs wrestled with the proposal in the Commons, civil servants and contractors were gathering for a two-day "public private finance" conference at the Royal Lancaster hotel in London. Delegates paid £816 each to hear treasury boss Geoffrey Spence talk about PFI, with help from health department officials like Brian Saunders, Paul Webster and Ken Anderson.

"Foundation Hospitals – the way forward" was an important part of the agenda. A host of leading privatisers were also involved in the healthcare debate, including Gerry Green, boss of Healthcare Projects, a consultant on several hospital PFIs; Michael Davis of Catalyst Healthcare, the firm behind PFI hospitals like the Halifax general. Chris Elliot of that well-known medical firm Barclays' Private Equity also sat on the health panel. The whole event was sponsored by accountants KPMG, whose "head of PPP/PFI", Margaret Stephens, was also booked to talk about foundation hospitals.

Of course it is possible these bankers, accountants and private contractors are interested in foundation hospitals as an efficient way of delivering social justice by empowering local citizens, and that squeezing some more profit from the NHS is furthest from their minds. But does anyone believe it?

THE selling of jet fighters to China is, not surprisingly, covered by a plethora of international arms export embargoes. But UK arms dealers are unlikely to let that get in the way of sales and are pioneering an Ikea-style self-assembly approach to selling fighter aircraft to "difficult" regimes.

The UK government's strategic export controls (SEC) annual report, released last month, details dozens of jet fighter parts which UK firms have been licensed to sell to China. These include components for military aero-engines, components for military aircraft navigation equipment, ejector seats and the all-encompassing "general military aircraft components".

It's highly unlikely the Chinese are buying jet fighter parts for any other reason than to build the fighters, and the country has no lack of skilled labour to assemble them. Amnesty International says the SEC report, originally hailed as a landmark in openness about arms dealing, is becoming useless. "The level of obfuscatory detail makes it very unclear what is happening in terms of what is being sent to where," said a spokesman.

Street Of Shame

BAFFLEMENT in Fleet Street at the increasingly absurd behaviour of the press complaints commission (PCC).

It recently censured the *Guardian* for printing an article about Jeffrey Archer's jail diary by fellow-prisoner John Williams and is now investigating the paper's prison columnist Erwin James – even though his pieces are written with the consent of the prison authorities and his fees are paid into a trust.

For many years the PCC has adamantly insisted that it can only launch an investigation if it receives a complaint "from those directly involved" – ie the subjects of an offending article. So who complained about John Williams or Erwin James? Er, nobody.

Only a few months ago, when Rebekah Wade admitted that the *Sun* had paid police officers for information, PCC director Guy Black rejected demands for an inquiry into the scandal on the familiar old grounds that no one involved had complained. Yet now it turns out the PCC can investigate "misconduct" on its own initiative after all – at least if the offender is the *Grauniad*.

For other papers, however, the policy of see-no-evil continues. The PCC's condemnation of the *Guardian* (which paid Williams £720 for a 2,500-word article challenging Archer's version of prison life) coincided with its bizarre decision to exonerate the *News of the Screws*, which paid the rather larger sum of £10,000 to a convicted conman who then invented an alleged plot to kidnap Victoria Beckham.

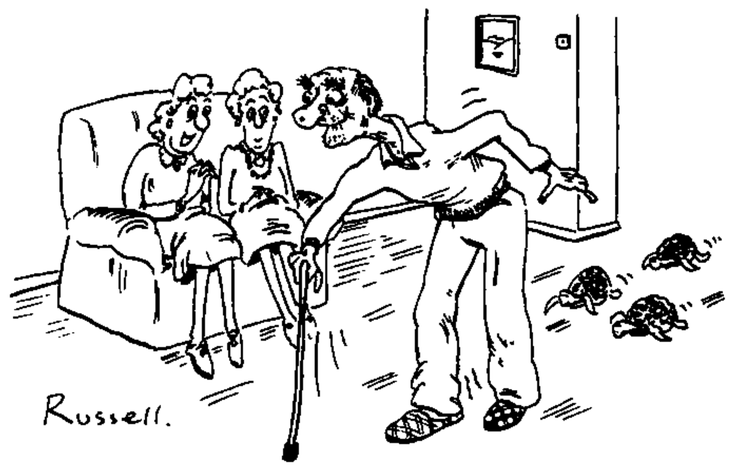
The editor of the *Screws* at the time of this sleazy fiasco was of course Rebekah Wade. No doubt it is pure coincidence that Wade (unlike *Grauniad* editor Alan Rusbridger) also happens to be a close friend and holiday companion of the PCC's Guy Black.

MICHAEL WHITE, political editor of the *Guardian*, is a very important fellow. So he was none too pleased to find himself sharing a landline link-up with Peter Dunn, author of the *New Statesman* piece suggesting Blair was mad, during a BBC World Service broadcast last weekend.

Dunn, quickly realising the programme didn't want to discuss the PM's sanity, waded into the parliamentary lobby instead, arguing that Lord Hutton should investigate its role in the Kelly affair. At the end of the recording, a spluttering White told Dunn: "If this programme had been recorded in the same studio, I'd have put your head in a cooking pot."

Thankfully, by the time the programme was broadcast six hours later, the producer had carefully excised Dunn's disgraceful aspersions on the integrity of the Fourth Estate.

● *WOULD the anonymous Anglican priest with the interesting story about homosexual exorcism like to make contact in confidence? Thank you. Ed.*



"In his youth, he ran with the bulls!"

EVEN as the temperature rises, the *Telegraph* remains the home of the thinking man's totty.

While the *Sun* chose to illustrate its piece on last week's heatwave with the traditional busty Bournemouth bathing beauty ("tan-talising Jan Summerell, 22"), Charles Moore was getting hot under the collar with a front-page picture of "young punters cooling off under a willow tree in Cambridge as temperatures approached 90°F".

ANYONE in any doubt that the "war on PR" is over at *The Mirror* need look no further than the enormous puff the paper awarded to a *Hello!* photoshoot with Victoria Spencer on 15 July.

The whole of page 3 was devoted to detailing how the ex-sister-in-law of Princess Diana had "conquered her demons", eight years after going "into rehab in the grip of anorexia and addicted to heroin and alcohol".

Another demon who tormented Spencer at the time was *Mirror* editor Piers Morgan, who printed paparazzi shots of her in the "booze and bulimia clinic" in the paper he then edited, the *News of The World*, earning him a spectacular public dressing-down from both the PCC and his then boss Rupert Murdoch.

So why the sudden sucking-up? Could it in any way be related to the fact that the previous day the BBC announced it was commisioning a second series of Morgan's show *Tabloid Tales*, and he desperately needs to persuade six more wronged celebrities to agree to appear so that he can crawl to them on air?

HOW much longer can the *Mirror*'s 3am "girls" continue their pretence that they pick up gossip from showbiz parties, rather than simply copying it out of magazines and the popbitch website?

"Which eminent artist has some dodgy hygiene habits?" asked their Wicked Whispers column on 15 July. "The messy bird once went to the dentist only to be told to brush her teeth before the check-up… because she had the remnants of her night of passion with a former lover on her chin. Yuk."

As *Observer* readers know, the answer is Tracey Emin, who told the story herself in an interview with the paper two days previously.

AT THE end of May the *Grauniad* published a cautionary tale about Keele University, which had got itself into a financial mess by selling its rental income to a private company in exchange for cash upfront.

"When it comes to hocking the future for a present gain, there's generally only one winner," the article explained. "Anyone tempted to take the money and run would do well to bear in mind Keele's experience first." The company which had turned out to be "the only winner" in this case was Owengate Securities Ltd.

How odd, then, to see a piece in the *Grauniad* on 10 July urging universities to follow Keele's example. "They [universities] are also free to use their assets in ways they see fit," it noted, "so rather than sell them they may unlock value in streams of income, for example from student rent." The author of the piece was one Douglas Pinnock.

Who he? As a note below the article revealed: "Douglas Pinnock has for 15 years been a director of Owengate Securities Ltd."

IT SEEMS some at the London *Evening Standard* took the news of Alexander Walker's death a little harder than others.

While front-page headlines and full-page tributes to the veteran movie hack adorned the main paper, Walker's colleagues from the *Metro* magazine supplement found it harder to accept.

"Alexander Walker is away," they comforted themselves on 17 July. The *Standard*'s distinguished film critic passed away on 15 July.

"Hey Doreen – Justin got 95% for 'Truancy'..."

JUST FANCY THAT!

"A 23-year-old recently told me that in her set the only girl not to have a Brazilian is called 'Hairy' and teased by all the boys. The boys clearly perceive waxing as a statement of how 'up for it' girls are at all times."

— Tiffany Darke, *Sunday Times* News Review, 8 June 2003.

"Even in this post-feminist era, young women are expected to look like porn stars. 'We all have Brazilian waxes — the boys totally love it. Every girl in my group has had it done save one, and she gets teased mercilessly about her unruly pubic hair,' says Suzy, a 24-year-old television researcher from London."

— Kira Cochrane, *Sunday Times* News Review, 15 June 2003.

ANDY BULL, former deputy editor of the *Sunday Express*, has received a birthday card from editor Martin "Wimp" Townsend. It's a "singing card", and the song in question is "Celebrate Good Times" by Kool and the Gang.

Since Bull resigned from the *Sexpress* after being questioned by police investigating subscribers to child-porn websites, he might suspect Townsend of taking the piss. Not so, however. It seems that the Wimp is missing his old deputy and wants him back at the paper as soon as possible — mainly to curb the excesses of Jim "Mad Dog" Murray, the increasingly demented news editor, who recently ordered his hacks to produce at least six stories every week about "vicars having flings, Oxford dons having flings, royals having flings, showbiz stars having flings".

But will Richard "Dirty" Desmond allow Bull to return? Not likely.

ANDREW Parkes, editor of the Kentish *News Shopper* freesheet, informs his readers that the *Eye* has dubbed him Britain's angriest hack – "and all because I said a few lowlife scum didn't deserve to share this planet with decent folk".

What Parkes actually proposed in his original editorial was that youths who were caught stealing cars – or indeed anything else – should be executed by Brazilian-style death squads. "Just for the record," he writes in his latest editorial, "I didn't call for the introduction of South American death squads, what I suggested was that we consider setting up our own. But, to be honest, I'm not really bothered how such scumbags are removed, as long as they are." And, since his appearance in the *Eye*, "a number of the great and the good have contacted me to offer their wholehearted support".

Surprisingly, this may even be true. At a public meeting of the Bromley Police-Community Consultation Group two weeks ago, chief superintendent David Dillnutt began his speech by mentioning the *Eye* article and announcing that he was "at one with the *News Shopper*".

"BOSS WHO GOT £167,000 TO MOVE HOUSE" screamed the *Daily Mail* headline over the news that BBC director of television Jana Bennet had been offered a generous relocation package on top of her £216,000 salary when the corporation poached her from a job in the USA.

"Even commercial rivals such as ITV and Sky have not paid out as much to bring staff in from abroad," the paper pointed out.

There is, however, one media organisation that pays one of its top executives £65,000 a year to help with "accommodation in London", despite the fact that he only hails from Sussex and receives a basic salary of £690,000. He is of course… *Daily Mail* editor Paul Dacre!

"SO safety-conscious has the nation become that we are all constantly treated like five-year-old imbeciles," thunders *Daily Telegraph* columnist Tom Utley. He describes a recent visit from by the *Telegraph*'s company nurse, who wanted to inspect his chair and computer screen and keyboard.

"The idea of all this was to make sure that I didn't contract what used to be called repetitive strain injury – although I could have told her that nobody with Tory leanings has ever contracted RSI. It is a disease that afflicts only socialists and trade unionists."

Nevertheless, Utley adds, "I cannot blame… my employers for being nervous. I would be, too, in an age in which company executives can expect to be sued at the drop of a hat." Quite so. In the last *Eye* we revealed an epidemic of RSI at the *Torygraph*, apparently caused by a new computer system.

Letters editor Sandra Barwick was so badly afflicted she has been hospitalised for two weeks – which may explain why the letters page was quick to print an angry riposte from a Tory reader who is disabled with RSI, attacking Utley's "unfeeling hardness… towards vulnerable groups".

THE NEOPHILIACS

"TV chiefs should realise that if 40 is the new 30, then 50 is the new 40." — Lynda Bellingham, actress and former Oxo Mum, quoted on ITV Teletext.

"Fifty is the new 40; 60 is the new 50." — Patricia Hewitt, *Daily Telegraph*.

"Why 90 is the new 70." — Katharine Whitehorn, *Guardian*.

"For the corporate world, orange is quite clearly the new black." — *Business Life* magazine.

"Anal sex is the new black." — *Fifty Ways to Please Your Man*, Channel 5.

"Finger-loop braiding is the new sex." — Julian Worricker, Radio 5.

"The garden is the new kitchen." — *Observer*.

"Why food is the new tobacco." — *Church of England Newspaper*.

"Horizontal is the new vertical." — Advert for Prima kitchens.

"Melanoma: the new smallpox?" — *Clinical Oncology*.

"Doing the housework is the new going out." — *Wallpaper* magazine.

"In Honduras today, clothes are the new bananas." — Sean Langan, *Travels With a Gringo*, Channel 4.

"Have you noticed that bottled water is the new hotel telephone?" — Jeannette Hyde, *Observer*.

"Is Britain the new Mediterranean?" — BBC News online.

"Are laptops the new accordions?" — Artsjournal.com

THE troubled new minister for children, Margaret Hodge, has dodged the first tricky questions about the equally troubled family court service, Cafcass, she has inherited.

Asked how many desperate children were caught in the Cafcass backlog while at the centre of care proceedings, adoption or traumatic family break-up, she could only say that Cafcass was dealing with 12,245 cases: it would be too costly to say how many children were still awaiting the appointment of a court guardian.

Perhaps the *Eye* can enlighten her. A leaked memo last March said up to 2,000 children were awaiting a guardian and sources suggest the problem is not getting any better. Some of the most vulnerable children are waiting up to 12 weeks to be allocated someone to represent their interests.

Before Cafcass was created, children were usually allocated a guardian within 24 hours. Those experienced guardians who have not already left the service are now exasperated by it. For example, this week they are being told to acknowledge "diversity week", and take along diversity monitoring forms to all first interviews.

Cafcass has also hired market researchers to find out what "customers" think of the service. Unfortunately the "customers" appear to be the parents – who may in some cases be the abusers or worse – rather than the children themselves.

Still, while Cafcass burns Mrs Hodge is at least seeking advice from those experts in child welfare and education, teenage magazine editors, some of whom have been invited in for a chat.

DIVORCE is never easy. But in the case of John Prescott and the RMT union, it looks as if it will be a particularly messy one, with the courts having to pick up the pieces.

The relationship was dealt a severe blow more than a year ago when the deputy prime minister refused to renew his vows and left the RMT, formerly the Seamen's Union, after it decided to cut its contributions to the Labour party. Then the union told Prescott to leave the Clapham flat for which the RMT has charged him a peppercorn rent for more than 30 years. It wants to demolish the block and build affordable housing for key workers on the site, in line with the policy of, er, the deputy prime minister.

Prescott – who has two other homes – ignored the request, leaving the union little option other than to serve a formal notice to quit, which expired on 20 June. The RMT is now awaiting a court date so it can seek an order to repossess the flat. Bailiffs and police, as always in such cases, will be on hand should Prescott cut up rough.

Prescott's office would only tell the *Eye* that it was a "personal matter between the deputy prime minister and the RMT" – a sentiment echoed by the union's spokesman. Perhaps it is not too late to hope for a reconciliation after all.

THE death of Labour MP Paul Daisley will soon lead to a by-election in Brent East – something party panjandrums must be dreading.

Having ruled out 12 Brent councillors from the selection shortlist, as well as local leftie Unison official Dorothy Macedo, the nomination went to sitting Euro MEP Robert Evans, who narrowly beat Labour NEC member Shahid Malik. Malik's near victory came after a tub-thumping denunciation of the war on Iraq – a denunciation that had been surprisingly absent until that moment.

GRAND SUMMER RECESS COMPETITION

WITH parliament on holiday until October, Lord Gnome is launching a competition to find the most desperate or excruciating website run by an MP. All submissions will be gratefully received, but an early front-runner is this irresistible appeal to yoof from Tom Watson, Labour MP for West Bromwich East, which can be found on www.tom-watson.co.uk:

"Teens! We know that you're too busy fighting off your biological urges and being l33t hax0rs [*sic*] to Get Involved, but politics is cool, m'kay? [*sic*] Nobody ever seems to do anything for The Kids! All the decisions are made by suits, man. That's so lame!!! We know you think of yourselves as responsible citizens, but what you wanna do is turn that thought into an action, dudes.

"Get involved – to the *extreme!*

"The BBC politics for kids/teens site is, like, totally wacked! Ditto for the Parliament education site, which even has a section for younger yoof. Fanta-stick! YoungGov is totally the business for having your say, and there are even wicked Youth Parliament sites for the UK, Scotland and Europe. (Hey, chill with the anti-Europe vibes already! You totally won't be able to wear the word 'fcuk' on your shirt anymore if we break our connection with France, y'dig? ROFFLE!)

"So, cut it with the bling bling and do something for the community, man. Join in and take action with any of the groovy sites we've listed, or just drop Tom a line for a quiet rap by the electronic e-mail. Tom's well-up on the Interwebnet, and he won't harsh your buzz or dis you down the line."

THE transition of the lord chancellor's office into the department for constitutional affairs continues to run smoothly.

Last week Lord Falconer's new outfit advertised in the *Guardian*'s Society section for a team of research officers to "help to expand our social research capability and enhance our evidence base for developing, implementing and evaluating policy".

Two methods of applying for the jobs were offered. Applicants who called the telephone number provided were greeted by a cheery message informing them they were speaking to the lord chancellor's department but "you are unable to leave a message at present, goodbye!" Those who plumped for email had their messages swiftly returned with the message "sorry, I couldn't find any host named dca.gov.uk".

Naturally, directory inquiries had never heard of the department either, and a search of all government websites fails to turn up a postal address. Who said the government's plans for constitutional reform weren't thought through properly?

MEMBERS of Westminster's shy and retiring intelligence and security select committee have allowed their colleagues in foreign affairs to hog the limelight during the dossier-gate hearings, even though it was they who interviewed both Tony Blair and Jack Straw. But what does this committee, whose meetings are held in private at secret locations, do the rest of the time?

Its annual report for 2002-2003 is in the public domain, but its quiet release in May attracted zero press coverage. Little wonder, as it is full of informative paragraphs, like this one on the work of the secret intelligence service, which makes one wonder if it's worth making the document public at all.

"As we reported last year, the SIS spent some *** but the impact of this *** *** *** *** operation on future drug production cannot be fully measured. The operation was not repeated this year and the SIS is concentrating on ***"

So that's all right then.

'Backbiter'

BRUSSELS SPROUTS

THOUGH EU commissioners are off on holiday, the charges of fraud and slipshod accounting at Eurostat, the European commission's statistics department in Luxembourg, will be still be waiting for them when they get back.

Indeed, the MEPs who asked awkward questions at an extraordinary meeting of the budgetary control committee earlier this month and put "reform" commissioner Neil Kinnock on the spot, will have even more embarrassing questions after the holiday when commission president Romano Prodi will face the music about murky goings-on at Eurostat.

At this month's meeting the MEPs were angry about reports from the commission's own investigators that there was evidence of vast looting of EU funds. They wanted to know why nothing was done before since, as far back as 1994, the European court of auditors had queried the relations of the body with external companies.

The commission's decision to set up an investigative task force coordinated by its own secretary-general David O'Sullivan caused MEP Gabriele Stauner to ask if O'Sullivan was really right for the job. Could he not be implicated himself, she mused. Kinnock exploded. Here was a poor official who had no right to answer back being criticised, he responded loudly while dodging the issue.

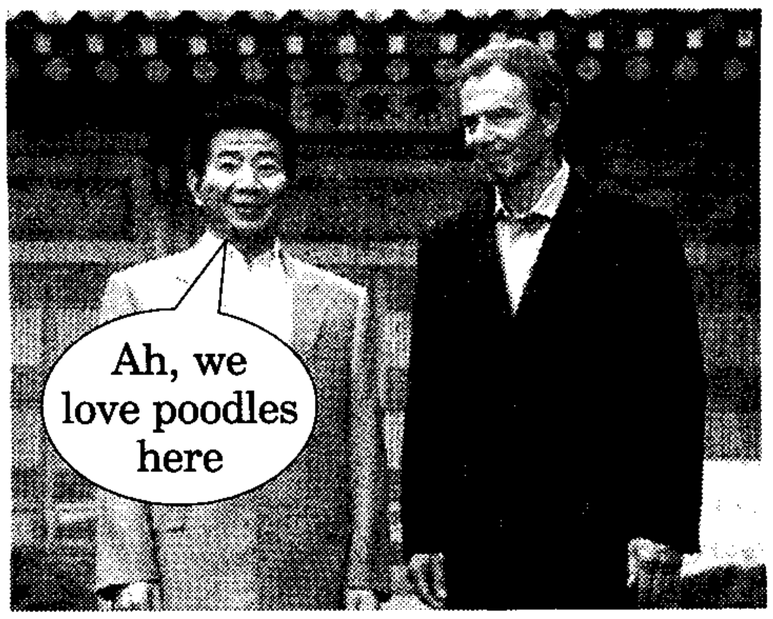
O'Sullivan is not the only individual to face criticism. MEPs also asked if Pedro Solbes, the commissioner with responsibility for Eurostat, should resign. No, he didn't think so, using the old ignorance defence of "I can't take responsibility for something I did not know about."

Had Solbes's resignation been discussed by the commission as a whole, MEPs wanted to know. Kinnock was by now shouting. "If you want the short answer, it is NO!" As ever Kinnock took the line of "innocence wrongly accused". He tried to explain that longstanding complaints about Eurostat had not been substantiated and talked of the rules of fair play. "We can't operate on the basis of denunciation [of Yves Franchet, head of Eurostat]… In every single democracy I know of, you can't simply remove people. You must have bona fide evidence… There is very strong evidence that the commission *is* putting its house in order."

If the anger and incredulity of MEPs to the statements from Kinnock and Solbes are anything to go by, Prodi will have to come up with some better lines over the summer holidays.

PS: Dougal Watt, the Scots whistleblower who was suspended without pay last year after he alleged "systematic corruption and abuse in the European court of auditors", has been definitively sacked by the commission. He is appealing to the European court of justice.

KOREA WELCOMES BLAIR



DOING THE ROUNDS

Trust Me, I'm a Cyber Doc

SHOULD you be able to buy prescription only medicines (POMs) from an online doctor? An American company has approached the *Eye* wanting to advertise this service, already well established in America.

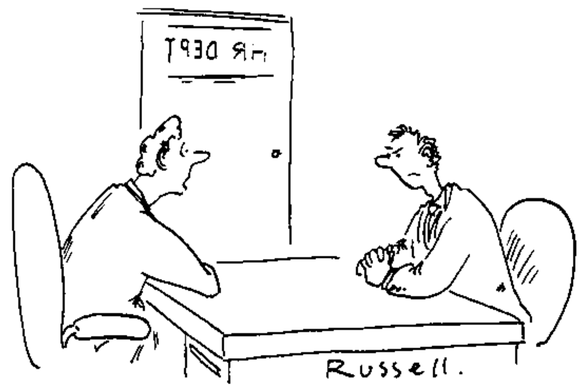
As the US site puts it: "You can conveniently and comfortably talk (sic) with our Doctors and Pharmacists using the internet. You'll have your prescriptions written and your medications prescribed quickly and easily from the comfort of your computer. You'll save valuable time because you won't have to wait in a Doctor's office to be seen. You'll stay healthier because you won't be exposed to other patients who may possibly be contagious. Your questionnaire is done online."

The company specifically trades in "embarrassment" drugs, which patients find difficult to ask for face to face. "Internet technology enables you to get the medications you need without any hassle, embarrassment or error." So what's the downside? Clearly it helps to have a diagnosis before swallowing anything, but the company's mission statement is clear. "Online consultation is safe on the condition that you provide the correct information. This method is suitable for chronic medication in cases where the diagnosis is known. When you are not sure of your diagnosis or the medication you need, you have to consult a doctor for a full physical examination to get an accurate diagnosis for your condition before ordering."

Alas, patients who are bald, impotent, wrinkly, obese, spotty and nicotine addicted tend to be pretty desperate, and it's easier to lie to a cyberdoc than one who has your records in front of him. That said, patients have to take responsibility for their actions, and if you want to lie about your risk factors to get hold of Viagra, you have to accept the risks. The company promises: "All our doctors and pharmacists are European-licensed and registered as such in the relevant professional registers and controlled by EU member state inspectorates." But they don't provide a list of who they are so you can check their qualifications.

Their claim that "the quality of our services is on the same professional level as in regular health care" also seems unencumbered by evidence. Still, it's big business in the US and the advantages of speed, convenience and discretion (neutral packaging by registered courier) will be hard for those who can afford it to resist, although you do pay over double the market price of the drug for the whole service. And it appears to be legal.

"All medications provided have been registered by the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medical Products (EMEA) or the comparable agency of one or more European Union member states. Our affiliated pharmacies will only provide medicines to patients who have been issued a valid prescription via an online consultation by a licensed UK or EU doctor. All pharmacies are licensed by the appropriate regulatory authorities within their state. As a matter of firm policy, we do not supply medicines without a valid prescription and do not advertise directly to the public."



"No, donating sperm doesn't entitle you to paternity leave"

It may be legal but the *Eye* is not running the ad. The drugs seem kosher ("Each medication dispensed by affiliated pharmacies comes in the manufacturer's original tamper proof blister-pack with original documentation") which ironically makes them more dangerous. You can buy contraceptives, appetite suppressants, anti-obesity drugs, acne medication, muscle relaxants, anti-smoking drugs and a whole host of other potentially dangerous medication. Are we being patronising and over-protective? After all, the vast majority of repeat prescriptions in the NHS are done with the rapid scrawl of a stressed GP with no quality control at all. Is cyber-prescribing really any more dangerous?

M.D.

SIGNAL FAILURES

Capacity and incapacity

THE "strategic" rail authority has finally twigged that more but shorter trains on crowded tracks exacerbate delays. It says 25 percent of the capacity of key routes should be left unused to reduce knock-on delays to other services; this means stripping out services in some areas.

The SRA forgot to say this inefficient use of assets is necessary because of privatisation. Many of today's infrastructure faults stem from Railtrack's deliberate refusal to renew worn-out equipment, to save money for dividends and help it shed its image as a "boring old utility". Other delays arise from shortages of drivers or guards, or bad rostering, on franchises that are fined for delays but bailed out to prevent losses.

The SRA seems to accept many of these factors are here to stay and the best it can do is cut services to reduce knock-on delays. In that case logic suggests intercity services should be reduced in number but increased in length, because the public generally hasn't responded to the plethora of extra intercity services since privatisation.

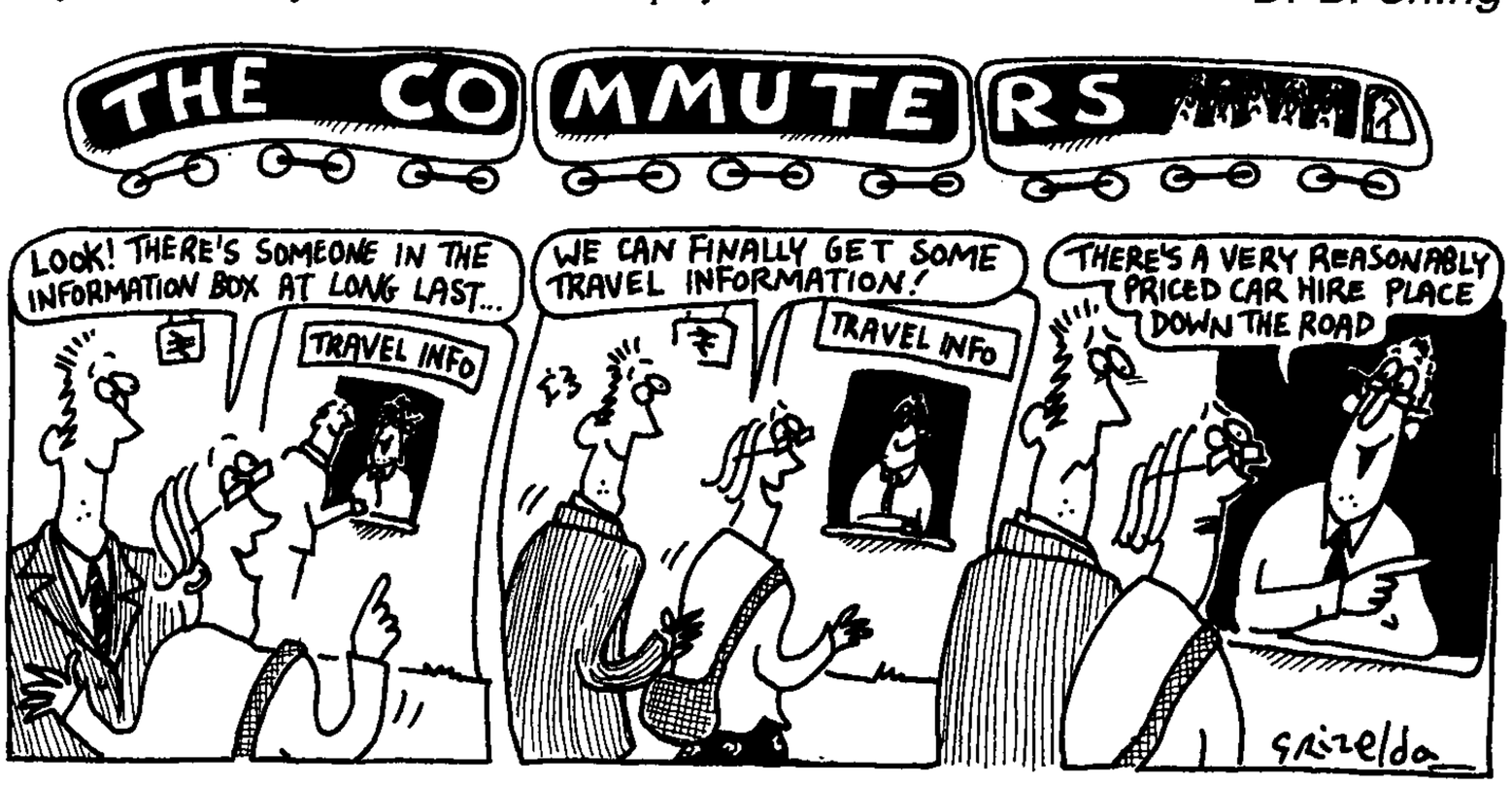
The SRA has other ideas. Its first route strategy using its new capacity theory covers the crowded west-coast main line. Far from reducing the number of intercity trains, the SRA says the priority is to have 80 percent *more* of them than today. Of course it's just coincidence the company running those trains is Virgin, and that Virgin's policy of piling on extra but shorter trains regardless of impact on other operators was encouraged by consultant Jim Steer (now SRA strategy director), or that Richard Bowker became SRA chairman straight from Virgin Rail.

A LETTER leaked to the *Eye* contains an ominous warning of damage to the rest of the railway because of the incompetent Virgin-Railtrack deal to upgrade the west-coast line (*Eyes passim*).

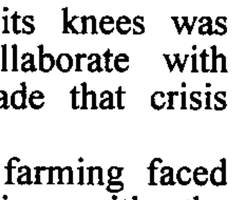
Nicola Shaw, SRA chief operating officer, wrote to the transport department in May confirming the project is now estimated at £10bn and this "would be likely to take the SRA beyond the public resources currently allocated to it without actions on franchising or other elements of the network, or without further funds being allocated to us in Spending Review 2004." As motorway widening is back in vogue at Whitehall, significant further funds for rail are unlikely.

In case Whitehall was tempted to pull the plug on the west-coast scheme, Shaw did a little arm twisting: "You will be aware of the significant benefits the west-coast strategy offers, and its primacy among the rail projects due to be delivered in the period to 2005..." It remains to be seen if voters at the next election will be so impressed by Richard Branson's shiny new trains and sky-high fares that they forgive all the cuts and under-investment elsewhere.

'Dr B. Ching'


THE COMMUTERS
LOOK! THERE'S SOMEONE IN THE INFORMATION BOX AT LONG LAST...
TRAVEL INFO
WE CAN FINALLY GET SOME TRAVEL INFORMATION!
TRAVEL INFO
£3
THERE'S A VERY REASONABLY PRICED CAR HIRE PLACE DOWN THE ROAD
Grizelda

DOWN ON THE FARM



AFTER 95 years as the self-proclaimed "voice of British farming", the "No Effing Use", it seems, may soon be no effing more. Faced with plummeting membership and spiralling debts, the National Farmers Union is to close its London headquarters, sacking 50 staff.

The modern office building in Shaftesbury Avenue is to be sold, along with the "presidential flat" occupied by "Sir" Ben Gill in Covent Garden. The skeletal remains of the NFU will then retreat to a bunker in Warwickshire, either at Stoneleigh or Stratford. Thus will come to an end the farce, connived in by government and media, whereby Gill and Co continued to be treated as "farmers' leaders", representing the interests of Britain's farming industry, long after most farmers had melted away from the NFU because they realised it did nothing of the kind.

Athough membership figures have been kept secret, it is thought they now include less than a third of the 300,000 farmers who survive, as Britain's farming continues to stagger through the worst crisis in its history.

What brought the NFU to its knees was its grovelling readiness to collaborate with the very forces which have made that crisis inevitable.

In the 1990s, when British farming faced unprecedented challenges, starting with the regulatory disasters which followed on such food scares as salmonella and BSE, such collaboration finally became indefensible. Faced by an across-the-board collapse in farm prices after 1997, the only response from Gill and the NFU was to bleat incessantly about how Britain must join the euro. The last straw came during the 2001 foot and mouth disaster. As the obscurantist alliance against vaccination led by Gill and Professor Roy Anderson brought the livestock industry to its knees, the NFU played a central part in creating the most pointlessly destructive crisis British farming has ever faced.

Oft heard from farmers at the time was the comment "I will never trust the NFU again". As Gill and his henchmen slink off into their bunker, the message has finally struck home.

'Muckspreader'

EYE TV

BBC Annual Report

IN the days when the BBC was run by Mike Checkland and Duke Hussey, it was decided that – in the interests of accountability – the chairman and director-general should appear live on TV and radio to answer questions on the annual report by the BBC governors. On one celebrated occasion, chairman Hussey apologised to a caller for his ignorance of the television schedules. Duke – or "Dukey", as Checkland referred to him on air – explained that he and Lady Susan had only just got a telly at their weekend cottage.

There's little risk of the current incumbents claiming swathes of broadcast peak-time to discuss their annual accounts. Such programmes would get far too low ratings for Gavyn and Greg to be interested in them. So they merely appear – as the law requires – before Gerald Kaufman's select committee and otherwise rely on their battalions of press officers to spin the contents to the press.

As we'll see in a moment, the corporation has been unlucky with the reporting of its report. Even so, it has brought some of this on itself. For the report contains many oddities. "On BBC1," the governors note, "a more ambitious slate was crowned by series like *The Life Of Mammals*..." But David Attenborough has been making such series for 40 or so years. In what way is screening the latest of them "more ambitious"?

And, while "the channel held its share", it's noted that BBC1 "lost minority audiences and young audiences – real challenges for the year ahead". This bland and defiantly upbeat formula hides a real failure. Among last year's main priorities across the BBC were improving the racial and age profiles of the main channels. If BBC1 has managed to become whiter and older, urgent questions need to be asked.

According to the same policy of accentuating the positive, the digital channel BBC3 is congratulated for reaching 25 percent of its target audience in the first few weeks – aka failing to reach your objectives by three quarters – and is now charged with "turning a strong brand into a bigger audience". In other words, no one is watching it at all.

When individual programmes are selected, you sometimes wonder if the current governors, like Duke Hussey, are having

"Oh no, now they're doing adverts for their bloody adverts"

trouble with the receiving equipment at their weekend cottages. On BBC4, *Readers And Writers Roadshow* is singled out, but this once-weekly series recently disappeared from the screens without explanation. Similarly, the entry for Radio 4 notes that Andrew Marr took over *Start The Week*, without acknowledging that the switch was widely panned.

It's easy to see from some of this why MPs accused the report of being "smug". But – while we're name-calling – the press coverage of the annual report was generally lazy. Having long accused the corporation's management of not paying enough attention to the programmes, the papers duly ignored the programmes almost entirely and focused on the large bonuses paid to members of the board of management.

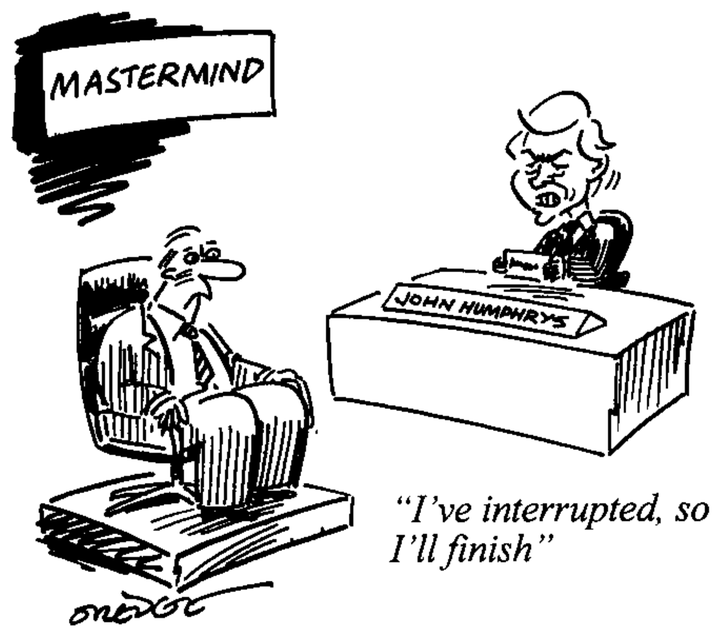
Yet, even there, they missed a trick. There was widespread criticism of the extra £20,000 paid to Botney for "on-screen presentation during the year". Media correspondents complained that his Imagine had been a ratings flop and so he didn't deserve it; but the anger was half-hearted because – for a 10-part series – the fee might actually seem quite modest. In fact, the twenty grand wasn't for Imagine at all, which falls in next year's accounts, but for the three-part *Leonardo*. At such rates, Al should be due around £150,000 in bonus in next year's accounts, by which time he'll have done two series of Imagine. Then it might be time to have a row.

But the depressing thing about both the annual report and the reporting of it is that neither the BBC nor its enemies in politics and the press seem to have a clear idea now of what the BBC ought to be doing. The governors stress ratings and audience share – often through statistical sleight of hand – while the papers berate them for failing to make programmes which are popular enough.

Nobody now dares say the terrible old truth about public service broadcasting, which is that it may involve making programmes of the highest quality which relatively few people want to watch. The more the annual reports boast about audiences, the more such bragging will be turned against the BBC. The trick of spin is to create the vocabulary in which you are talked about. The BBC report accepts the language of its enemies.

Pressed by MPs on why the BBC paid an unprecedented £167,000 in relocation costs to a manager returning from America, Chairman Davies said that such deals were common when he worked at Goldman Sachs. But the BBC isn't Goldman Sachs and thinking about it as a private company has encouraged journalists to write about it as such.

'Remote Controller'



"I've interrupted, so I'll finish"

ITN-balls

WHEN *Al Jazeera* manager Adnan Sharif gave a phone interview to the ITN News Channel on 4 July, he was surprised to find himself illustrated by a photo of Saddam Hussein.

And when Katie Derham introduced an item about the Arab channel's alleged tape of the fugitive mass-murderer, *Al Jazeera* footage was captioned "CBS News Exclusive".

Later on, footage of a blood-soaked survivor of a bombing at a Pakistani mosque appeared to be remarkably similar to footage of the aftermath of an attack on US troops in Iraq, another story in the same bulletin.

DUMB BRITAIN

Daryl Denham's Drivetime, Virgin Radio

Daryl Denham: Which island would you be from if I called you a Manx-man?

Contestant: The Isle of Dogs.

Denham: Which series of books by Enid Blyton featured a dog named Timmy?

Same contestant: The Magnificent Five.

Brainteaser, Channel Five

Craig Stevens: We're looking for a four-letter answer here — Shakespeare said that this by any other name would smell as sweet...

Contestant: Soap?

The Weakest Link, BBC2

Anne Robinson: Which activity, which can be primary, secondary, higher, further or adult, is mainly conducted in schools or universities?

Contestant: Pass.

design RULES
A PROGRAMME THAT STARTS OFF LOOKING AT GHASTLY TASTES...
AND GARISH OVER THE TOP STYLES...
THEN GOES ON TO LOOK AT SOME HORRIBLE ROOMS
Ken Pyne

JUST FANCY THAT!

Alan Yentob received a £67,000 bonus last year despite his arts programme *Imagine* being a flop.

– *Metro*, July 16, p. 2

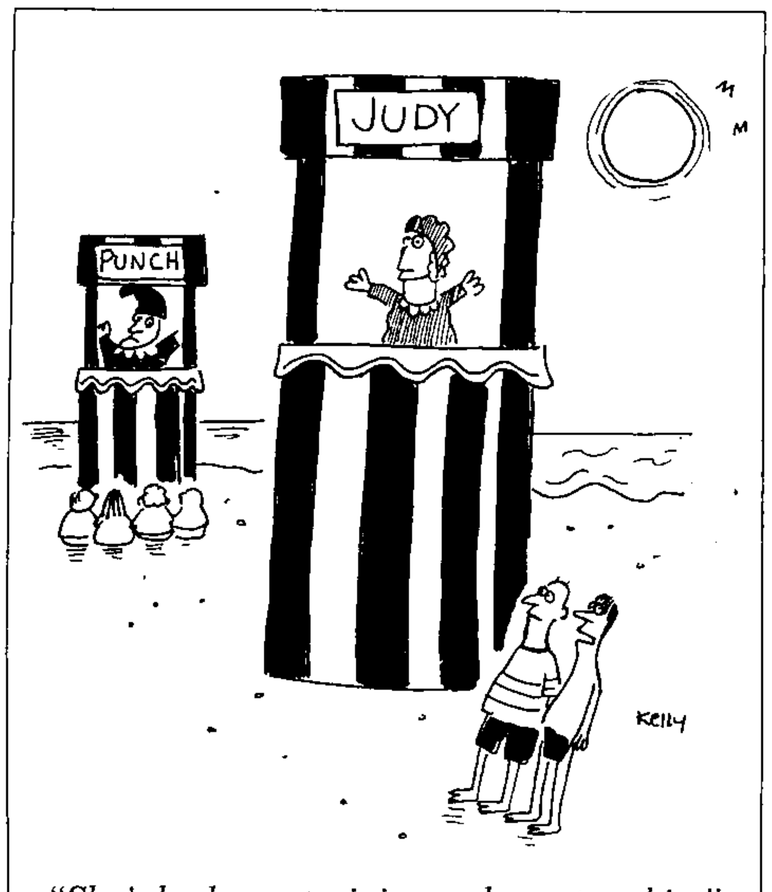
Alan Yentob arts series is going from strength to strength.

– *Metro* TV Listings, July 16, p. 21

GOING LIVE

WHY did the BBC's *Ten O'Clock News* go live to its North of England correspondent in Manchester on 14 July for the latest on the Studabaker abduction story?

"Tonight the focus of the story has moved from here to France," revealed the hackette helpfully.



"She's had a restraining order put on him"

MEDIA NEWS

WEB-BASED ticket tout the Online Ticket Shop, which charges grossly inflated prices for heavily booked sporting and musical events, lied when it told the last *Eye* it refunds all its disappointed customers within two weeks.

Tim Bailey, who paid £278 to Online in April for a £110 Glastonbury ticket that never materialised, has still not had his money back. Online boasts that it can get tickets for "sold out" concerts and sporting events worldwide and, therefore, they come at a premium. Indeed they do: but Online doesn't tell customers the face value of the ticket they are buying – as obliged under consumer law – unless people telephone to ask.

So the *Eye* put Online to the test over what appeared to be some pretty expensive tickets for the rugby world cup in Australia this autumn. Online's operator did not know the face value price of tickets for the England v Georgia match in Perth in October for which it was charging a whopping £150 for a top seat. Courtesy of the Australian Rugby Union, the *Eye* found the top price was A$45 – just over £15 – which meant a staggering 1,000 percent mark up for Online.

What's more, these tickets marked as "available" haven't even gone on sale yet, so there is no guarantee Online can supply them. But even if it doesn't, it is still good business for the net touts. As illustrated by the case of Mr Bailey, Online have had use of his money for nearly four months – and have produced neither the goods nor a refund.

His bank, Lloyds TSB, has now come to the rescue and said it will refund the money on his debit card and then seek to reclaim it from Online. Let's hope it has better luck than Mr Bailey.

AD NAUSEAM

SOMETHING strange is happening in adland: what appears to be nothing less than an outbreak of what you might call honesty.

Last week the Smirnoff vodka people began a campaign encouraging punters to drink *less* of their product, with the tacit admittance that drinking loads of it will eventually kill you. How long before Esso starts giving away push-bikes?

The Smirnoff ad features a couple on a date. Up pops one of the man's old buddies, who begins reminiscing at some length about what a lady-killer our hero was in his heyday. This goes down like a sack of spuds with his new squeeze, prompting the strapline "Knowing when to stop is a good thing".

Anyone who thinks this signals a sudden bout of soul-searching in the booze industry has probably had one too many themselves. The reason Diageo, which owns Smirnoff, is reining back is because of a palpable fear that the ban on tobacco advertising earlier this year has opened the regulatory floodgates.

The Smirnoff campaign broke a week after the British Medical Association urged the government to ban alcohol advertising outright. It is now a matter of when rather than if. The Irish government and several other EU nations have already outlined plans to create a new 10pm watershed for alcohol advertising on television, along with health warnings on packaging. These are precisely the first steps that led to an eventual ban on tobacco advertising. Allied Domecq has also seen the writing on the wall. Tia Maria and Ballantine's have been running ads with advisory straplines since this time last year.

Diageo boasts that it has given £500,000 to ad agency AMV to push the responsible drinking message. But this particular ad was created in the US (you can tell because the leads are called Hank and Cindy), then shipped over to keep down costs. And if £500,000 sounds like a lot, in marketing terms it's small beer. Diageo's budget for this year's St Patrick's Day Guinness-fest was £2m.

GREAT PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES

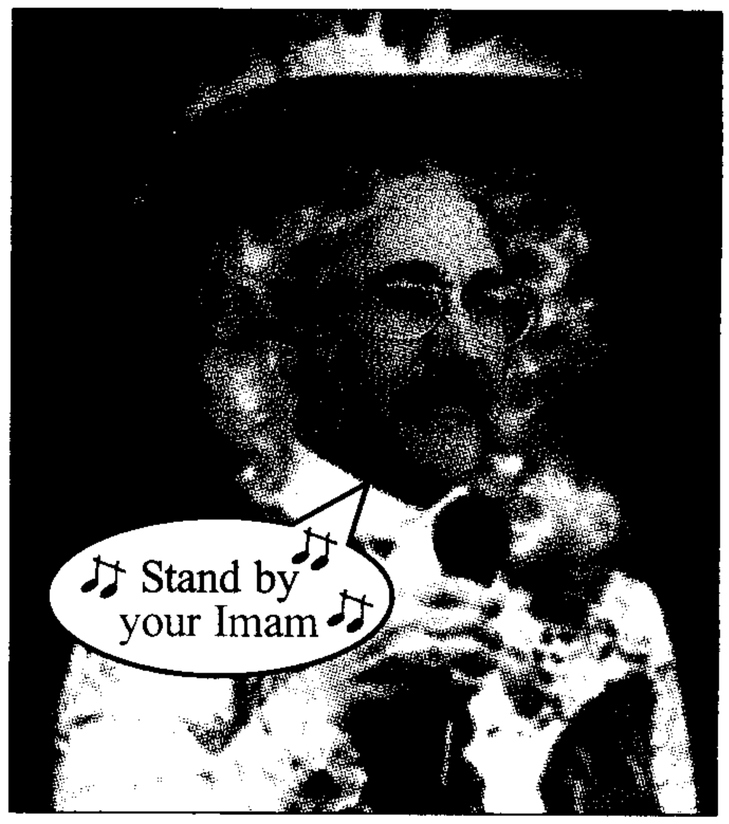
POSING by the bonny banks of Loch Lomond to promote Scotland's tourist trade should have been an easy enough assignment even for first minister Jack McConnell.

But photographers reckoned without a last-minute decision by his aides to tartan up his image with a jacket made by, and carrying the prominent logo of, golfwear manufacturer Sunderland of Scotland.

Unfortunately, as you might expect the man responsible for Scottish industry to know, the only thing patriotic about the company is its name. In May Sunderland announced the closure of its only Scottish factory in Glasgow with the loss of 98 jobs. The workers were due to receive statutory redundancy payments a few days after McConnell's photo op.

SPLIT personalities

Bob Moore



Mohammed Khatami Wynettte

IT'S not all doom and gloom on the domestic front for Tony Blair. At least he has the surprise defeat of leftie train drivers' leader Mick Rix to cheer him up.

As general-secretary of Aslef for the past five years, Rix had been the most feared of the new generation of "awkward squad" union leaders. But he was unseated by the relatively unknown Shaun Brady, a self-declared "Blairite" train driver from Basingstoke.

Brady is a robust moderate who once had a fist fight with RMT union leader Bob Crow during a trip to Moscow, and who narrowly survived a written complaint of sexual harassment from a woman colleague while on a union course in Southampton during the 1980s.

Rix was as surprised by his shock defeat as anyone and alluded to "dark forces" during a speech to tearful colleagues at a pub near the union's Hampstead HQ. But who were these "dark forces"? An answer may be gleaned from former Aslef general-secretary Lew Adams, who himself lost to Rix five years ago. Adams, who is now a non-executive director of the strategic rail authority (SRA) and advises a number of private rail companies, helped coordinate a shadowy campaign for the bumbling and perpetually sweaty Brady. Such is Adams' value to the privatised rail companies that a locomotive has even been named after him and can often be spotted hauling long-suffering GNER passengers up to Newcastle and beyond. The loco's name? Lew Adams – the Black Prince.

'Blackleg'

SUPERMODELS

KERBER

EAT YOUR GREENS!!!
I DON'T WANT THEM!!!
TYPICAL, JUST LIKE ALL FIVE YEAR OLDS, SHE WON'T EAT HER GREENS!
...BLOODY ATKINS DIET!!!
MORE MEAT!!!
DROOL!

ROTTEN BOROUGHS

PAPER CHASE

NOW that the leadership of Flintshire county council has been humiliated at the employment appeals tribunal (EAT) into the sacking of internal auditor Andy Sutton, the way is clear for Inspector Dai Knacker to investigate Flintshire, named "Council to Watch in 2003" by the *Eye* last Christmas.

Flintshire's unsuccessful appeal to the EAT means an original tribunal decision, that Sutton had been dismissed for doing his job properly, stands. The 38 separate allegations he made under the public interest disclosure act — some of which were the subject of *Eye* stories — have been upheld. On top of legal costs estimated at £750,000, Flintshire faces a compensation claim likely to top £250,000.

The appeal was always bound to fail, but chief executive Phillip McGreevy and leader Alex Aldridge were desperate to the last to cover up the incompetence and dodgy dealing which have characterised their leadership (*Eyes passim*).

Among allegations being examined by Inspector Knacker, the way in which the Waterhouse inquiry into child abuse in North Wales children's homes was fed council documents is of special interest.

Social services staffing officer Sian Griffiths was seconded to work on the documentation to be provided to the inquiry under the supervision of Andrew Loveridge, Flintshire's legal supremo. Why she was chosen is unclear. Her previous job meant she had knowledge of staff against whom child abuse allegations had been made — a potential conflict of interest that was ignored.

Ms Griffiths was promoted to M5, a senior management grade that usually requires significant staff and budgetary responsibilities, and earned £30,000 a year for the two years of the inquiry. But the post was never advertised, she was unqualified and had a staff of only two working for her.

That clearly wasn't enough assistance, because Griffiths did a lot of overtime — five hours a day, apparently, earning an extra £2,000 a month and boosting her pay to £102,000 over two years, £42,000 of which was overtime. For a while she was the council's second highest-paid worker after the chief executive.

Ms Griffiths retired on ill-health grounds in November 1999, allowing her to take a redundancy package which was calculated on the basis of her final year's salary of £48,000. The lack of documentation of her extraordinary salary was the first case in which the council's internal auditor Sutton clashed with Loveridge, who refused to produce the relevant overtime forms.

It will be interesting to see if Knacker questions Loveridge about this, or about Sutton's allegation that, according to a reliable witness, she had threatened to "spill the beans" on Loveridge in relation to the Waterhouse inquiry if she wasn't paid.

Another question remains. Was the Waterhouse inquiry fed all the council documents it needed fully to investigate child abuse in North Wales?

● AS IF the financial consequences of the Sutton debacle weren't enough, Flintshire taxpayers have just learned they will have to pay an extra £250,000 to finish a long-awaited 25-metre swimming pool in Buckley, on top of £2.5m already allocated. Much of the extra cost is because no one noticed a cock-up in the pool's design which would have made it just one metre deep throughout – a pricey paddling pool indeed.

IN GOOD FAITH

ALL HELL is set to break loose in Lambeth, where the findings of a public inquiry into racism within the housing department and the result of former shop steward Alex Owolade's appeal against his dismissal will soon be known (*Eye passim*).

The inquiry and appeal are inextricably linked, despite Lambeth's insistence that they are not. Owolade has a strong case that he was sacked because he had represented staff whose claims of racism by management gave rise to the public inquiry.

As the public inquiry and Owolade's appeal have unfolded, the rift between Lambeth's chief executive Faith Boardman and the Tory deputy leader of the council, John Whelan, has become all too apparent, with each accusing the other under oath of lying about the circumstances of Owolade's sacking.

Boardman's performance at Owolade's employment tribunal appeal hearing in Croydon raised eyebrows when, on 8 July, she claimed that at the council's AGM last year, a supporter of Owolade had pinned her against a wall in an ante-chamber and threatened her and her family. Boardman said the threat was made by Luke Massie, an American civil rights campaigner. She told the hearing she had not reported it to the police or town hall security, or anyone, for "the good of the council". Exactly what benefit Boardman expected Lambeth council to derive from not telling the police that its chief executive and her family had been "threatened" is unclear.

BARN DANCE

THE Yorkshire Dales, like many country areas, is very short of affordable housing for local people. Houses are bought as second homes by outsiders, inflating prices and forcing locals out.

So Cllr John Blackie, leader of Richmondshire council, won considerable support when he criticised the Yorkshire Dales national park's strict planning rules, which had prevented a disused barn being converted into a home for a local family to rent at an affordable price. Yet those rules do allow barn conversions for holiday lets. Cllr Blackie's opinions had extra force because he is a member of the park authority's planning committee.

They also upset several of his colleagues on the authority, who have called for his resignation. One of those is Roy Swanston, a former director of English Heritage, who lives in Hertfordshire but has a second home at Gunnerside in Swaledale. In the year 2001-02, Swanston, a government appointee, claimed £4,133 in travel expenses, the highest of any member of the authority, including the chairman. But then it is a long way to drive from the Home Counties to one's agreeable second home, the better to lay down the law to the locals.

● COVENTRY city council is putting an amusing slogan on franked mail it sends out: "Passport to Leisure: on benefit, living in Coventry, over 16." That's the life!

"Half a league table, half a league table, half a league table onward..."

EDUCASHUN EDUCASHUN EDUCASHUN

"JARVIS have also managed not to improve the worst toilet in the school, despite having refurbished it." So says the school governors' report this month to parents from Varndean School in Brighton. It contains a catalogue of horror stories about the school's first year as a Jarvis PFI scheme.

Problems began immediately, in September 2002, with the start of term having to be postponed for safety reasons as refurbishment was still going on. Time-consuming and frustrating discussions went on throughout the autumn term. And as the report reveals: "October was the month when the senior staff of the school started to get that awful sinking feeling that the PFI project with Jarvis was not going to be a happy experience."

In January: "The new sports hall was handed over – but even then Jarvis and the LEA managed to spoil the occasion with penny-pinching over equipment." Even by the end of the school year, this month, the governors were not happy. "Work remains incomplete or has been done to a very questionable standard. The canteen was meant to be properly refurbished but we have had to fight all the way to get it to the condition it is in at the moment, which is distinctly shoddy."

The school has also been threatened with having its electricity cut off and being surcharged for contractual problems – even though the school itself is not a party to the contract between the LEA and Jarvis.

It's not just staff and governors of Varndean who are frustrated. In the student-written *Varndean News*, aghast Year 9 pupil Tim Glebocki writes: "Any teacher wishing, say, to have the glass from a broken window cleared away [must] ask reception to ring Jarvis to ask if the job may be done. Then Jarvis have to ask a caretaker themselves to fix the window. That's right, no less than two phone calls to fix one window. The teachers have to do this, even if the caretaker is standing right next to them!

"Far from rescuing students from squalor it is clear Jarvis has left many jobs undone," adds the horrified young school hack. "The maths rooms are often too hot for people to work in, and corridors and rooms have been left in a state of ill-repair." Anyone for PFI?

IT'S GRIM UP NORTH LONDON KNIFE & PACKER

GREAT TERRACE FURNITURE, GUYS!
IT'S AMAZING TO THINK OF THE EFFORT AND WORKMANSHIP THAT WENT INTO IT
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES SLAVING ALL HOURS IN THE MOST INHUMAN CONDITIONS FOR POVERTY WAGES
YOU'RE NOT WRONG THERE – OUR HANDYMAN, JEFF, HAD TO COME ALL THE WAY UP FROM CLAPTON TO ASSEMBLE IT

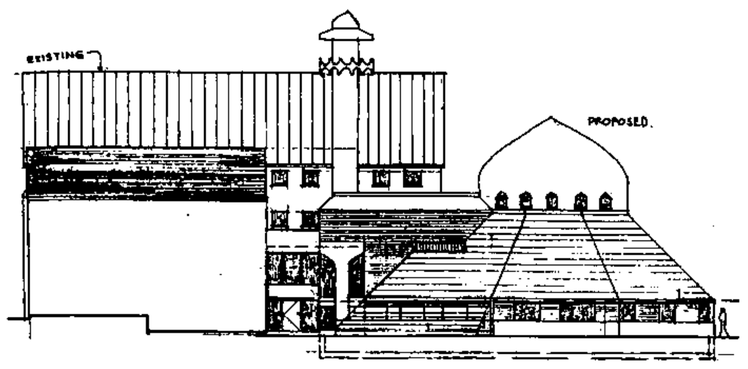
NOOKS and CORNERS

IN THIS sultry month thoughts turn to the seaside: something the English once displayed genius in developing architecturally.

Take St Leonards-on-Sea in Sussex: that development of smart, stuccoed terraces and villas laid out around a picturesque park after 1828 by John Nash's favourite builder, James Burton, and continued after 1833 by his son, Decimus Burton, the architect of the Wellington Arch and the Athenaeum in London and Calverley Park at Tunbridge Wells.

Like its older neighbour, Hastings, St Leonards is a little run down these days, but still interesting and very handsome. And now it is to have a mosque, which is to be built in Mercatoria, the street whose name indicates it was intended for markets and shops. Hastings borough council has just given outline planning permission for this development, despite the objections of many local residents.

Many of the arguments used against the mosque are simply prejudiced and Islamophobic, and I am not bothered with them. But there are architectural concerns about what is proposed which do deserve to be taken seriously.



In 1985 the East Sussex Islamic Association bought the former National School at the top of Mercatoria, a building designed by Decimus Burton in 1847, and used it as a mosque and community centre. This caused no problem. But in 1999 the association proposed to demolish all the buildings on the site to make way for a new mosque. This was turned down, and the present scheme retains the Burton building, inserts a new street entrance in a feeble Saracenic style next to the existing terraced houses in the street, and replaces the Victorian classroom extensions at the back with a large polygonal domed mosque, complete with a 60ft-tall minaret.

Now there is absolutely nothing wrong in principle with Islamic architecture on such a site: indeed, it is almost the quintessential seaside style, what with the exotic onion domes and minaret-chimneys on Nash's Brighton Pavilion and the cast-iron horseshoe arches of the Palace Pier. But what is proposed in St Leonards is offensively banal and mediocre; like that of all modern mosques in Britain, the design is an utterly undistinguished, crude parody of what was — centuries ago, in Persia, India, Egypt and Iraq — a creative and vital architectural tradition.

Both Hastings' conservation officer and English Heritage complained that the drawings for the Masjid Al Haque provided by Messrs Salam Design & Build of Uxbridge were inadequate; indeed they are, and if offered by a first-year architectural student would deserve to be failed. The mosque site is between two well-policed conservation areas, where the original windows on the Burton buildings are protected; yet the application states that the windows are to be standard, hideous UPVC, and while the walls are to be rendered (stucco?), no information is given about the large covering of roof.

The proposed development is dense for a confined site and, arguably, out of scale with its neighbours. Furthermore, English Heritage points out that no consent for demolition in a conservation area should be given until a detailed scheme is agreed.

It is clear that Hastings, desperate to be politically correct and tolerant in these fraught and troubled times, has bent over backwards to be accommodating — regardless of the architecture of St Leonards. In his report recommending approval, Roy Crawford, senior planning officer, claimed "the special circumstances prevailing here, the need of a facility to meet the needs of the local Muslim community, to be of overriding importance". He also made the extraordinary statement that "the existing buildings are in a poor state of repair and those responsible for the mosque feel that the only realistic way forward is to redevelop the site."

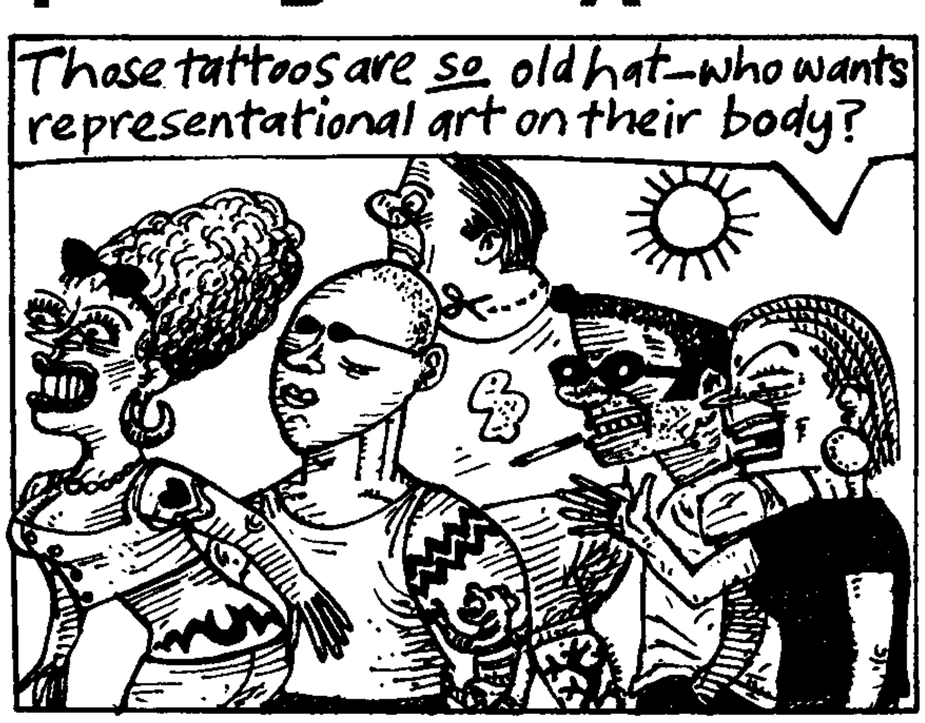
The only reason these buildings are in that state is that they have been neglected by their owners, and if the words "those responsible for the mosque" were replaced by "the developers", such a pathetic argument would be dismissed with contempt. Mr Crawford also claimed that the new mosque cannot be built on a more appropriate site elsewhere because "under Islamic law once a building has been used for a Mosque it cannot be used for any other purpose". If this is true, it puts the Islamic community at odds with our hard-won planning laws, which insist that demolition will not be tolerated if an alternative use can be founded. After all, changes of use can be what make our towns live and adapt, and the land is covered with converted churches while even synagogues have sometimes been abandoned and converted.

The chairman of the East Sussex Islamic Association has said: "We have no desire to disturb or irritate our neighbours" and I am sure he means it. But if mosques are going to emulate churches and challenge the hierarchies of our townscapes, British traditions and ways of doing things must be respected. So, in the supremely important cause of integration and tolerance, the East Sussex Islamic Association can make a start by employing a decent architect who might enhance, rather than spoil, lovely St Leonards.

'Piloti'

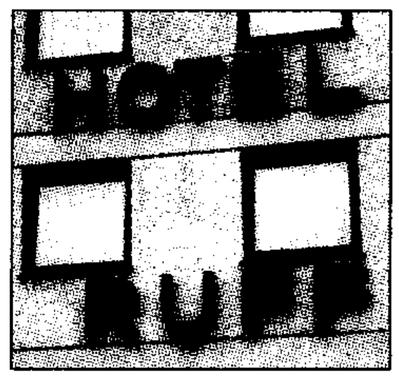
YOUNG BRITISH ARTISTS

BY BIRCH


Those tattoos are so old hat—who wants representational art on their body?
Which is why I had this conceptual one done.
IMAGINE THE ABSENCE OF A BUNCH OF BANANAS...

I-SPY

Majorca



Germany

Submitted by Mike Austin and S.P. Foster. £10 paid for similar submissions. *(SAE required for return of photographs.)*

MUSIC & MUSICIANS

WHATEVER the shortcomings of Covent Garden in the old days, before it became the People's Opera House and succumbed to management by TV executives, it had a certain style. And should anyone doubt those stylish days are gone, their passing was signalled *fortissimo e con brio* in the painful mess of the gala night that opened the Garden's new *Pagliacci* earlier this month.

The whole idea of staging by itself a mini-opera (almost always played as part of a double-bill) in an inflated production (Franco Zeffirelli, padded out with donkeys, cars, fire-eaters and transvestites), at inflated seat prices (up to £1,500 for the gala), was outrageous. Running at 20 minutes, the second half was shorter than the interval (inserted where no interval should be, to make the piece appear to fill an evening), and it all looked like an easy way to turn a fast buck.

But the Garden justified the venture on the grounds that it starred Placido Domingo and would therefore be an *event*. Indeed, some years ago this *Pagliacci* had been planned as London's farewell to Domingo in the expectation that, by now, he would be ready to retire. That he is not, and is in fact still going strong, scuppered its *raison d'etre*.

Not to be outdone, the Garden then resolved to put the show to other uses, making the gala a farewell to its outgoing chairman, Sir Colin Southgate. Critics were told it wouldn't count as an official First Night and were excluded – presumably because the House was nervous about what might appear in print. Southgate had been an accident-prone chairman: bullying, vain and not loved by the press beyond the fact that he could be relied on to stitch himself up for their benefit. He will be remembered, if at all, for his deathless remark about not wanting to sit through an opera beside someone wearing smelly trainers.

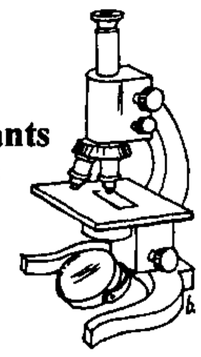
But at the gala he was lucky to be sitting beside anyone at all. Not many people thought that £1,500 to say goodbye to Colin Southgate was a bargain. So they stayed away. The house was papered: friends of friends on freebie tickets just to fill the seats. And what they sat through, press-ganged into black tie by rumours that the queen might come (she didn't), was one of the tackiest evenings in the modern history of Covent Garden. Zeffirelli's show was vulgar beyond imagining. And at the end, the curtain calls were hijacked by the sudden appearance of two men in suits (chief executive Tony Hall and board member Lord Eatwell) who delivered long, shambolic, unconvincing eulogies on Southgate while Domingo and the other singers – trapped – looked bored and shifted awkwardly from foot to foot.

Worse was to come when everyone filed into the foyers and discovered that the Floral Hall – in preparation for Sir Colin's farewell dinner – had been turned into a rough approximation of a sales reps' big night out in Billericay, with appalling decorations and a rock band on a dais singing Bee Gees tribute numbers.

In a last-ditch effort to ensure he's not forgotten, Sir Colin has generously commissioned his own portrait and presented it to the Opera House, where it now occupies a considerable amount of wallspace near the box office. A sitting target for the odd sports shoe.

'Lunchtime O'Boulez'

UNDER THE MICROSCOPE



WHILE billions of dollars in grants are available to research the effects of man-made climate change, it seems strange that a ground-breaking experiment designed to test whether global warming is actually our fault is having trouble scraping together the required pittance of funding.

The establishment view is that global warming is caused by the greenhouse effect. As humans burn fossil fuels, carbon dioxide is produced and this insulates the atmosphere, allowing sunlight through but trapping some of the heat in the process.

The trouble is, the evidence for a direct link between human activity, CO_2 and changes in the weather is actually quite tenuous.

A rival theory, which originated with a group of Danish scientists nearly a decade ago, says that while global warming is real, changes in the sun may have more to do with it than many believe. An imaginative experiment cooked up by scientists at CERN, the European nuclear research facility near Geneva, has been designed to see if events in space may cause global warming. The experiment (called CLOUD) will, if it gets off the ground, try to prove (or disprove) a link between solar activity, cosmic rays, cloud formation and hence temperatures on Earth, using CERN's particle accelerator.

The cost? About $10m. A lot, but peanuts compared to the billions made available to those wishing to carry out research into man-made climate change.

The theory that global warming may, at least in part, have a celestial connection is controversial, but hardly heresy: scientists have accepted a link between the Earth's passage through space and the onset of ice ages for many decades. This experiment needs to be done. If no link is shown, fair enough; we will know that the only way to tackle climate change is to change our behaviour. If a link *is* found, the whole costly implications of Kyoto and other climate change protocols will need to be reassessed.

'Boffin'

LUVVIES

"We are doing a different play every night, I swear to God. Last night was our 50th show and Patrick [Stewart] and I came off after Act Two and we were shaking. We were trembling with the newness and the freshness. I am going to be heartbroken when it's over."

LISA DILLON
The Times

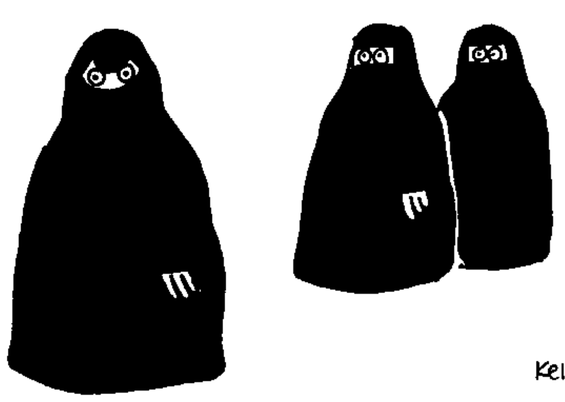
Submitted by Terry Long.

"I am so lucky I want to vomit every day. Being able to do exactly what you want is just the most amazing thing in the world."

DREW BARRYMORE
The Metro

Submitted by Christopher Doll.

An occasional column devoted to gems from the acting profession. £10 paid for entries.



"She's had a facelift"

Letters

Private Eye

Character stain removed

Sir,

I hate to destroy a story that has caused amusement to so many but the fact is that while Andrew Gilligan did on one or two occasions sleep on the sofa in my office, he did nothing untoward, and I never had said sofa replaced or indeed dry cleaned.

Yours faithfully,
DOMINIC LAWSON.

The Sunday Telegraph.

Hillsborough and the Sun

Sir,

The reason for the Liverpool boycott of the Sun had nothing to do with its publication of pictures of dead bodies after the Hillsborough Stadium disaster. It had everything to do with the Sun's claims that the disaster was all the fault of the Liverpool fans who "surged" into a fenced area. They went on to claim that the dead and dying fans were looted of personal possessions by other Liverpool fans. Given that neither of the claims were true, a boycott of the paper by Liverpudlians was the least surprising result.

Regards,
P.E. DANT,

Via email.

Lookalike

Reeves

Larkin

Sir,

I was struck by the remarkable resemblance between the grumpy, pessimistic poet Philip Larkin and the zany comedian Mr Vic Reeves. Perhaps Mr Reeves was fucked up by his Mam and Dad? I think we should be told.

Yours truly,
CHRIS ROWAN,

Sheffield.

Really Great Yarmouth

Sir,

Let me assure you that Great Yarmouth is anything but a "moribund fishing port" (1084): au contraire, it is a vibrant seaside community, the third tourist resort in the country and a thriving port for general cargo. It is quite a thrill to drive in to work in the morning and to see ships being loaded and unloaded on the way.

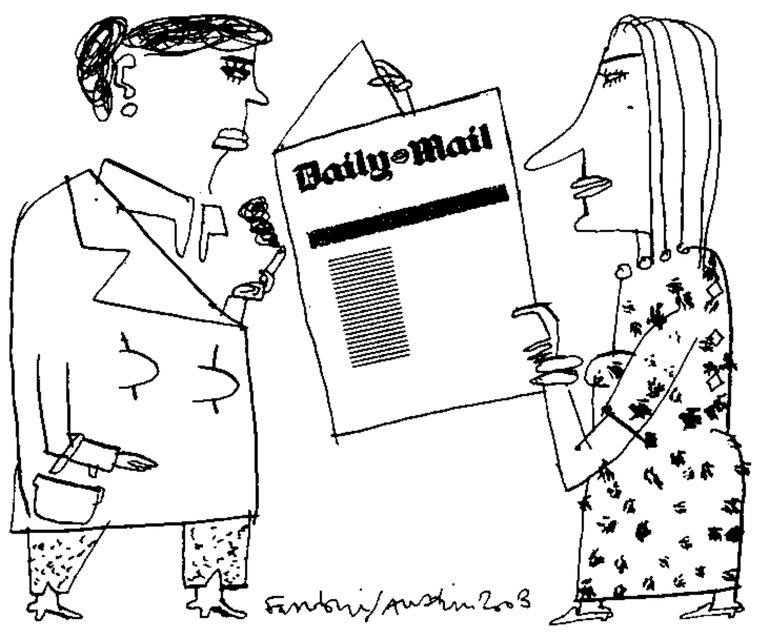
The town also has a strong maritime tradition, with a particular link with Nelson and Trafalgar; Defoe said it had "the finest quay in all of England", and there is a great deal of urban regeneration taking place. What more do you want, for heaven's sake?

We are quite happy to remain a perceived backwater if it keeps the likes of you capital-based media types away from our door; but in reality such a perception is a long way from the truth.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL SPRAGG,

Great Yarmouth, Norfolk.

Scenes You Never See



"I always turn to the Nigel Dempster page first"

Brighton cock

Sir,

Your sadly uninformed correspondent from our lovely exciting city has got it wrong again.

Our seafront, this person says is "ruined by grotesquely bad new hotels".

There have been no new hotels built on Brighton seafront for 25 years.

Perhaps this man is confusing things with Hotel Seattle in the Marina, or the prize-winning PelliRocco refurbishment. (Right opposite me!)

Or maybe the station, where two new hotels are being organised.

Can your correspondent spot the difference between a station and a seafront?

I think not.

In fact, nothing new has been built on the seafront since the 70s apart from the fab thirties-style Van Alen building, which houses posh people for posh prices.

Tall buildings? Yes there is a debate. Our illustrious leader Ken Bodfish thinks they are great... me and several others think not. The council have hired consultants to present a draft Tall Buildings Policy. A sensible idea. Let's see what we can achieve.

Our beachfront redevelopment has been a fantastic success by anyone's standards, except, it seems that curious person who keeps contacting you with garbled, hysterical misinformation.

Please come and talk.

Yours,
NIMROD PING,

Brighton.

Sour note

Sir,

I am not one of those who has felt able to join in the "orgy of self-congratulation" (1083) following Liverpool's nomination to become European "capital of culture".

The city's Central Library was formerly excellent. The music department was particularly good, for its vast collection of critical and reference books, as well as its bound and sheet music. Then, a few years ago, most of the reference books were sold, together with some of the actual music. The sale of the latter has continued ever since.

I recently had to visit Manchester's Central Library in order to obtain a copy of a well-known Elizabethan song. I also have to visit Manchester, or London, to find a music shop. Yet in my earlier years there were three such shops in Liverpool, a city which has always been deeply involved in "serious" music. What an indictment of a city which contains a major concert-hall, a famous symphony orchestra and two institutions of higher education which include music departments.

Yours faithfully,
FLORENCE E. GERSTEN,

Liverpool.

UK History is bunk

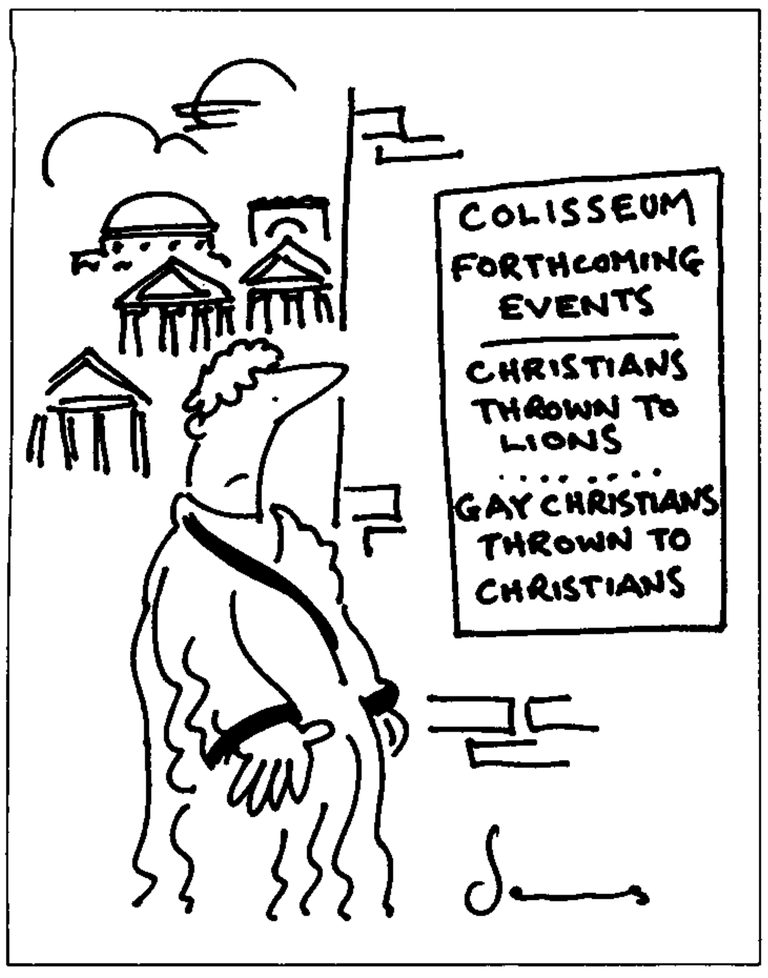
Sir,

You let the UK History Channel off lightly about their Combat At Sea Pacific War blunder: not only was HMS Barham a British battleship, but the spectacular footage shows her being sunk in the Mediterranean by a German U-boat in 1941, before the Yanks entered the war. In other words, footage about as irrelevant to the US-Jap Pacific War as could be found.

Perhaps when the late Henry Ford opined that "history is bunk", he was expressing prescient knowledge of the TV channel...

ALASDAIR MACLEAN,

Dundee.



EU POWers

Sir,

The phrase "I know nothing" (Brussels Sprouts, 1084) I remember more as a phrase shouted by the robust Sergeant Schultz in the 60s sitcom Hogan's Heroes.

I only mention this pedantry as the sitcom in question was about a bunch of POWs living in a camp, where the pickings from the gravy train where so rich there was little point in escaping. Their endeavours to maintain a comfortable lifestyle while still disrupting the war effort were hugely helped by the self-serving and dim-witted Kommandant and guards.

Reading the rest of the article, this struck a chord, and therefore the only question that remains then is whether Stalag Luft 13 and EU headquarters are perchance related?

Regards,
ALASTAIR NORTH,

Ludlow, Shrops.

Battle of Britten

Sir,

Re: Music & Musicians, Eye 1084. Lunchtime O'Boulez must have had a very good lunch, and I suspect not in Aldeburgh. I refer to his final sentence suggesting that Dear Ben "must be turning in his unmemorialised grave". Not so: there is a splendid slate headstone lettered, I think, by Reynolds Stone (or it might be one of the Gill stable).

Dear Peter lies beside him, not on top of him – an arrangement they might have preferred! – marked by a similarly elegant stone.

Your organ is a valuable relief from parish life.

Yours sincerely,
THE REV ANDREW McINTOSH,

Maldon, Essex.

Sir,

Re Benjamin Britten and Aldeburgh (Music & Musicians, 1084). As well as the John Piper memorial window in the Church, there is a blue plaque affixed to one of the houses that Britten lived in during his Aldeburgh years. Although not a memorial as such, it does acknowledge that the talented composer once resided in the town.

Best wishes,
TERRY HANSTOCK,

Nottingham.

Sir,

Lunchtime O'Boulez has slightly the wrong idea about the Aldeburgh dog statue: it's not a statue to honour the dog as he seems to believe.

Dr Robin Acheson was not only the "beloved physician", but also a bit of a hero on account of his numerous expeditions in the Aldeburgh lifeboat over many years.

When he died, his family being absolutely not the sort of people who would expect a statue of him, the villagers put up this charming little statue of his dog.

Yours truly,
RICHARD STEEL,

France.

Lookalike

Platell

Manson

Sir,

I wonder if anyone has noticed the remarkable similarity between former William Hague apologist Amanda Platell and Goth rocker Marilyn Manson.

Yours sincerely,
STUART CLIFFORD,

London SW17.

Customs villains

Sir,

I find myself in the unlikely position of defending the chairman of HM Customs – Broad(hell)bent. All the problems/disasters were well under way long before he joined. The alcohol tax scam has been an open secret for years and was kept from ministerial view to ensure the safe departure on retirement of the culprits. The real villains – the senior management team (who abandoned the lessons and experiences of 300 years) have escaped. Even worse, Broadbent's status as an "outside" appointment will be invoked to show that appointing "outsiders" does not work.

J. MILLAR,

Via email.

Deputy dog house

Sir,

I know you thought it was very funny that Glasgow city council's education services are looking for a "Depute Director", but you are only displaying your Sassenach ignorance of the Scots language, see The Concise Scots Dictionary, in which it is explained that "depute" (pronounced 'depjut') has meant "deputy" since the late 14th century.

EVA DEREGOWSKA,

Aberdeen.

● Thanks for the scores of letters on this subject. Er... point taken. Ed.

Colemanballs

£10 paid for contributions

"The government is ruining all the public services, particularly health, education and crime..."
IAIN DUNCAN SMITH, Newsnight
(David Clifford)

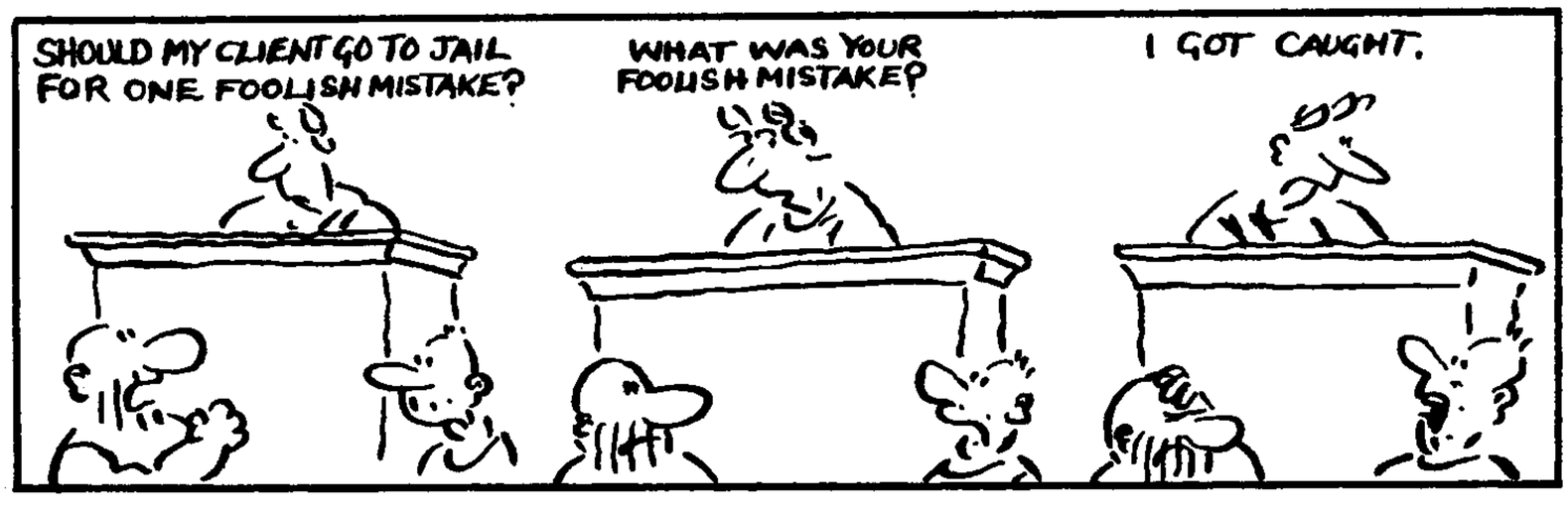
"I've always been a childhood fan of Liverpool."
HARRY KEWELL, Reuters/Yahoo sport
(Jim Scullion)

"The sea quickly ebbed in..."
FIONA FOSTER, ITV
(Adrian Grant)

"Peter Beardsley... has got a few tricks up his book."
IAN SNODIN, Sky Sports
(Steve Martin)

HOM SAP

AUSTIN



Letter from **South Africa**
from *Our Own Correspondent*

BIZARRELY, in the week of George Orwell's centenary, our ever-progressive ANC government began broadcasting slick TV and radio adverts from the secret services, boasting how our spooks are working overtime to keep us safe and happy.

In an echo of the bad old days of BOSS, when Big Brother really was watching us, it was also discreetly announced that three top apartheid-era spooks had been signed up to serve the new regime. Neil Barnard and Mike Louw are former heads of the old National Intelligence Service, while Richard Knollys "spooked" for the nasty tin-pot Bantustan, Bophuthatswana. All three will "advise" current minister of intelligence Lindiwe Sisulu.

Cynics wonder, however, if this has more to do with keeping us in the dark than keeping us safe. Barnard had been collaborating on a book, while Louw had begun to talk to select journalists about the murky past, dropping hints about hitherto unexposed collaborators with the old regime. Both could confirm or deny widespread rumours about which of our present "liberation" leaders, even possibly current ministers, had been suborned. Both have abruptly gone mum. Spooky, eh?

Simultaneously the government has gone to great lengths to fib about "missing" documents from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), set up to hear evidence of atrocities under apartheid. It claims it was conducting an investigation, knowing perfectly well that the 34 boxes of documents were in the possession, illegally, of Lindiwe Sisulu's National Intelligence Agency (NIA). Among "sensitive" papers are those relating to the mysterious 1988 assassination of the ANC representative in Paris, Dulcie September.

We're often told we now have the most liberal constitution in the world, and under the access to information act all ministries had till the end of August to reveal what information they hold. Until, that is, justice minister Penuell Maduna recently gave Lindiwe Sisulu a reprieve by quietly gazetting a regulation which exempted the NIA for five years. That may become permanent. Critics compare this to practices prevalent under our final old school white president, P.W. Botha.

But then history is being rewritten by the day. The burial of apartheid's greatest stooge and collaborator (also in the week of Orwell's centenary) proved the perfect opportunity for revisionist fabrication. Chief Kaizer Matanzima was the venal, brutal ruler of the Transkei, apartheid's first Bantustan. Yet Matanzima was accorded an official funeral, attended by President Thabo Mbeki. In his memorial oration, Mbeki solemnly urged us to "take up" the malevolent dictator's unfinished work – as tasteful as if, say, Churchill had honoured Oswald Mosley with state pomp at Westminster Abbey, acclaiming the old blackshirt to be an anti-Nazi patriot.

Apartheid Kaizer's rehabilitation was on Sunday. That week Mbeki had refused to meet a delegation of veterans from *Umkonto we Sizwe*, the former military wing of the ANC. The ex-combatants wished to present a memorandum, pointing out that though they'd fought for the liberation of the country, they were now completely ignored by their own government. Some had even been in exile with Mbeki. Majestically, the prez declined to receive their memo – perhaps because he was too busy practising his new passion. On Saturday, you see, President Mbeki was due to play in the inaugural round of his Presidential Golf Classic at the exclusive Woodhill Country Club outside Pretoria.

Mbeki is, of course, a former politburo member of the (long-time Stalinist) South African Communist Party. So maybe it's easier for him to make such a *volte-face*. However, despite being a lapsed Marxist who now plays golf, Mbeki is sadly too old (61) to qualify for our chic-est new elite, the "Yummies" (Young Upwardly Mobile Marxists).

So no wonder we need ol' time apartheid spooks to keep a lid on things. As statistics show, here in South Africa today pets eat better than 20 percent of the population.

FUNNY OLD WORLD

COMPILED BY **VICTOR LEWIS-SMITH**

o "We have taken this incident very seriously," Heath Williams of the Arriva Shires and Essex bus company told reporters in Hertford, "and have apologised unreservedly to Mrs Bambridge. Such behaviour is not acceptable within our company, and appropriate disciplinary action has already been taken."

Earlier, Mrs Violet Bambridge, a seventy-three-year-old widow from Hertford, had demanded an apology from the company, after her mislaid bus pass had been returned to her, along with an internal staff note. The mistakenly-enclosed note, written on Arriva-headed paper, read: "Left on the 390 at Hertford 15:55. Everyone on the bus said it 'belonged to the miserable old cow'. One lady serves her in a cafe, and said she would pass it on. The question is, how did she get home? Ha! Ha! Gary."

Mrs Bambridge later discovered that Gary was the driver of the bus. "It's a disgrace," she told reporters. "I am not a miserable old cow. I am a mother of six, and I always treat people in a courteous and polite way." *(Ipswich Evening Star, 17/10/2002. Spotter: Fiona Buckley)*

— o —

o *"Latin may be defunct as a spoken tongue, but it's still the official language of the Catholic Church," Father Reginald Foster told a press conference at the Ancora Bookstore, in front of St Peter's Basilica in Rome. "There are hundreds of modern terms that have no equivalent in Latin, and that's why the Vatican asked me to create this dictionary, the* Lexicon Recentis Latinitatis.

"Part of the dictionary deals with modern inventions, such as the escariorum lavator *(dishwasher), the* birota automataria levis *(motorcycle), the* pastillum botello fartum *(hot dog), and the p*ellicula cinematographica obscena *(pornographic film). But it also contains more abstract modern concepts, such as* tempus maximae frequentiae *(rush hour) and* conformitatis osor *(hippie). Because my dictionary is published in a single volume,* Latini feminarum captatores *(Latin lovers) will be able to take it with them to the* orbium phonographicorum theca *(disco), and I'm hoping it will become a* liber maxime divenditus *(best-seller)."*

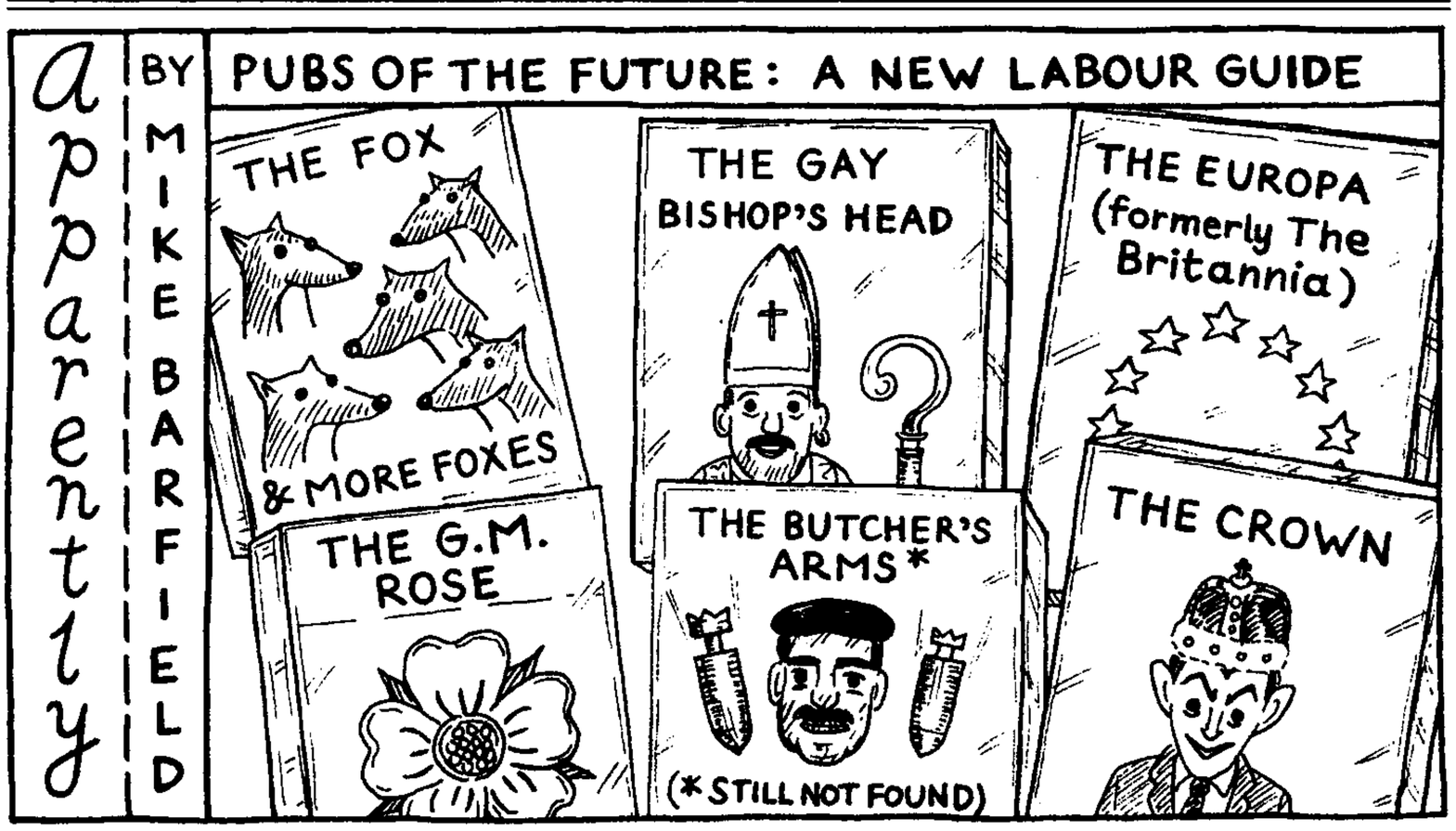
However, not all Latin specialists are pleased with the Lexicon. "This is essentially an admission of defeat," declared Harvard Professor R. J. Tarrant, who complained about "artificial terms like novi Hitleriani motus assecia *(neo-Nazi) and* iazensis musica *(jazz). It seems that, when all else fails, Father Foster*

just sticks a Latin ending onto a modern word and moves on." (Reformierte Nachrichten, 1/6/03. Spotter: Anon)

— o —

o "We will not press charges against the electricity company because we consider this to have been his destiny," relatives of the late Pallop Thachao told reporters in Bangkok, "but it is all very sad and sudden. We were driving past a tollbooth last night when Pallop said he needed to relieve himself, so we pulled over at the side of the highway, and let him out. He stood beneath an electricity pole and began to urinate, when all at once there was a flash of light, and we instantly feared the worst. We searched for him in the darkness, but all we found were ashes. Mysteriously, his artificial leg was still standing upright, all by itself, with the foot welded to the ground and smoke coming out of the top. We were all sick on the spot."

Later, Police Captain Narongchat Sajjathai explained how Pallop Thachao had met his death. "There was a heavy rainstorm last night, and ground water had collected around the pole. An exposed cable was in contact with the water, and the stream of urine must have completed an electrical circuit. He might have survived, but his prosthetic leg was a strong conductor of electricity, and that proved fatal. Tragic though this incident is, it highlights the folly of urinating near electrical equipment, especially during the rainy season." *(Taipei Times, 5/7/03. Spotter: William French)*



BLAIR REVEALS SOURCE

by Our Political Correspondent **Michael Whitewash**

THE PRIME MINISTER, following repeated demands for him to reveal the source of his information concerning weapons of mass destruction, named "a senior figure with a beard".

Pressed further, the Prime Minister admitted that he had several meetings with the man who told him in strict confidence that "everything he did was absolutely right".

Journalists were at first slow to identify the source, but the Prime Minister gave them a series of clues, saying his name began with 'G' ended with 'D' and had an 'O' in the middle. Blair also explained that he lived on a cloud in the sky.

Heaven Eleven

A spokesman for God, however, denied that he was the source and suggested that the more likely source might be another bearded man with horns on his head and cloven hooves *(Reuters)*

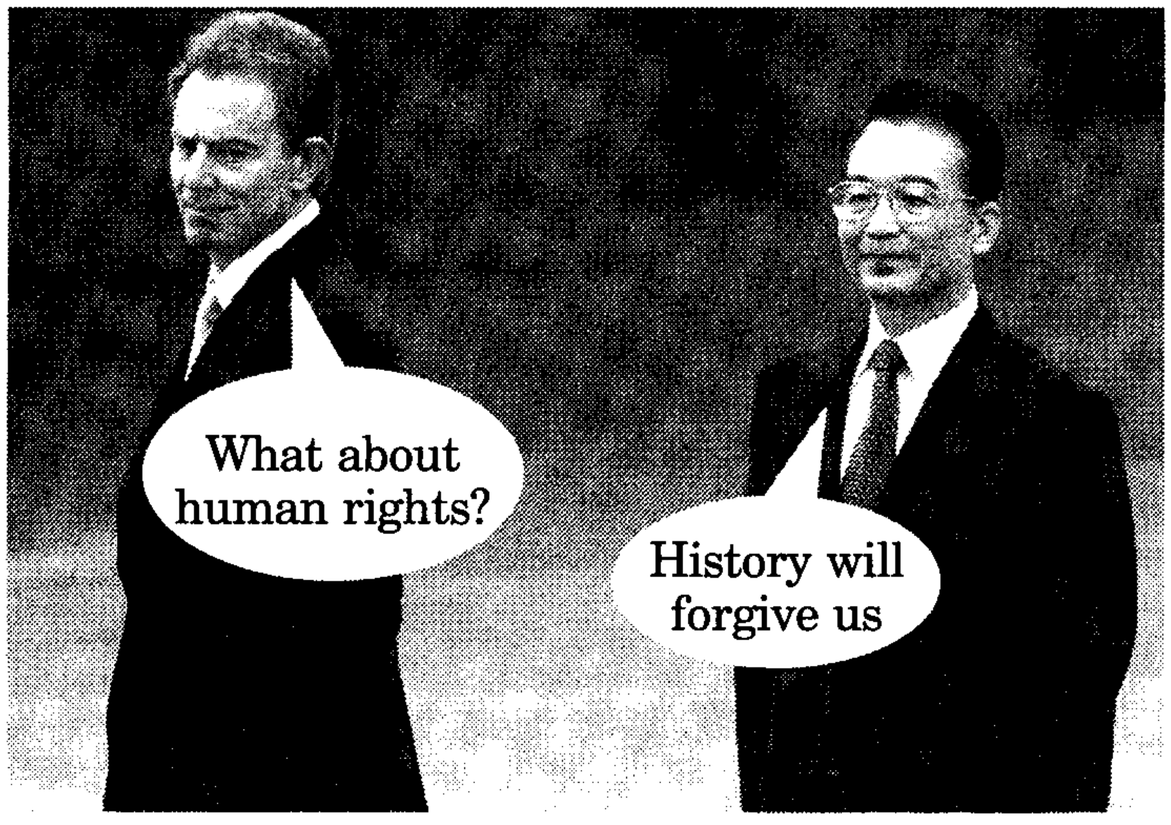
'WE MAY NEVER FIND THE BLAME' – Blair Latest

by Our Defence Staff **W.M. Deedes**

AN UNREPENTANT Tony Blair admitted last night that the blame for Doctor Kelly's death "may never be found".

However, he told journalists that "this should not stop us pointing the finger at the BBC for the tragedy and believing that we were justified in launching a full-scale attack on them in the first place".

BLAIR IN CHINA



Exclusive to all Newspapers

Sad Day For Us All

TERRIBLE tragedy... decent man... we are all to blame... blood on hands... moment of reflection... media excesses... dark forces... culture of dishonesty... a tragedy waiting to happen... step back to consider... judicial enquiry... truth must be told... fall guy... serious questions... one thing is for sure... nothing will ever be the same again...

© *All papers.*

CAMPBELL DEFENDS BBC ATTACK

"It's not a red herring"

"It's a dead herring"

Nutter Disrupts Grand Prix

by Our Racing Staff **Bernie Ecclescake**

THE BRITISH Grand Prix was thrown into confusion by the appearance at Silverstone of a defence minister, later named as Geoff Hoon, 47.

Drivers were stunned to see this figure in the crowd. Said one, "I was so horrified to see him standing there that I momentarily lost control of my car and nearly crashed.

Hoon he?

"I just can't understand how he got in," he continued. "I mean he's already been responsible for one disaster and we could have had another one on our hands."

"He's been named by the BBC"

When a man is suicidal

By Dr Thomas Utterfraud

THE TELL-TALE signs are clear to any doctor. The sallow complexion, the watery eyes indicating lack of sleep, and the voice cracking under stress. Yes, when I saw Tony Blair on TV I thought immediately this will make a good piece and *(cont'd. p. 94)*

The Wages Of Spin Is Death ***(Gospel of Look, 4.13)***

ST ALBION PARISH NEWS

Incumbent: Rev. A.R.P. Blair MA (Oxon) and holder of the Rev. Dubya Gold Medal For Outstanding Loyalty (second class)

Greater Love Hath No Man, Than He Lay Down Someone's Life For His Friend's Reputation ***(Judges, 12.3)***

Hullo!

And I know all of you will be looking to me for words of comfort after the tragic events that have affected the parish this weekend.

But that would be the easy thing to do. Far harder to step back and take a pause. A very long pause. Perhaps even a pause that might take years before we go rushing in with instant judgements about who did what and who was right and who was wrong.

No, what a Vicar needs to do at times like these is not to look back and try vainly to make sense of history, but to look forward to history and try and make sense of here and now.

I'm not going to waste my time pointing my finger at Mr Gilligan and all the other Judases. They know their deeds and Mr Mandelson knows where they live.

No – it is time for us to stop dwelling on the bad news (tragic though it is) and to concentrate on the "good news".

That's why I am writing this sitting on an aeroplane circling the world to bring the "good news" to all the peoples of the globe.

The good news is this: "The war is over, but the war goes on!"

Hang on, Vicar, I hear some of you say, that sounds like a bit of a contradiction in terms. That doesn't sound like good news at all!

Surely it's peace we're after, not war?

And to them I can only say, quoting the words of my teenage son, "Go figure!".

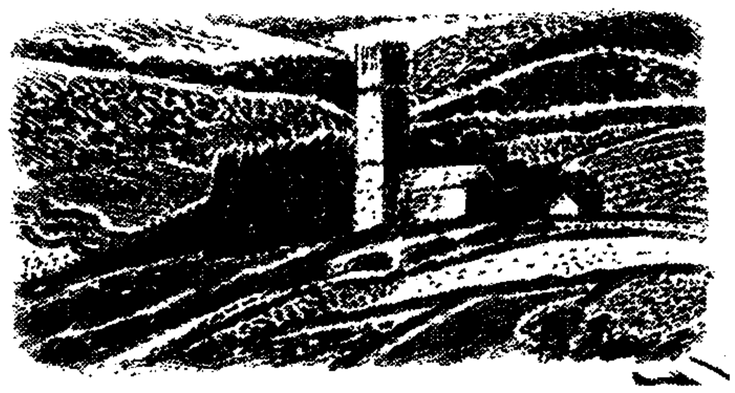
Isn't that what we've all got to do? All that matters is that we should "figure" out who are the good guys and who are the bad guys!

And the point is that the good guys won and the bad guys lost. It's not that difficult to understand except obviously for a few people like Mr Cook, Mrs Short, Mr Dalyell, Mrs Jackson and a few million other members of the congregation who keep picking holes in my sermons and saying that I "spiced" them up by making up texts and inventing examples to prove my point!

Well, even if I did, which I didn't, what does all that matter now, when the forces of darkness lie vanquished at our feet?

When David beat Goliath, did the Children of Israel go round saying "Look, there's no evidence that he had a big club, like you told us, David"?

No, of course not. They rejoiced to see their great enemy lying dead before them, and moved in to ensure that a moderate Philistine government was set up on an



interim basis under Israeli supervision!

The highlight of my world tour (which was in no way ruined by the sad news of the death of one of our parishioners, sad though it was) was the opportunity to preach before the 70,000-strong Brethren of the Congress in their massive Drive-In Tabernacle in Washington. And what a heartening experience to hear those Morons rising to their feet and cheering "Halleluia! We are saved! Hail to the friend of Dubya!"

We have not seen much of that sort of behaviour recently here at St Albion, have we? Not that I am complaining, but it would be nice now and again to get some positive feedback from someone apart from our local handyman, Mr Mandelson!!

And what did I tell those thousands of Latter-Day Morons? I told them "History Will Forgive us for Everything" (and that includes the sad death of the doctor in the parish, sad though it is).

For surely that is what history is, one generation absolving another for its mistakes, (not that we made any mistakes, but other generations did and may need to be forgiven).

History is Love. It says so in the Greatest Dossier of all, both in the Old Dossier and in the New Sexed-up Dossier. And hey, are you going to argue with that?

Yours not a psycho,

Tony

Advertisement

Attractive 40+ legal high-flyer seeks services of top PR consultant for help in promoting a more positive image in the parish. 100 percent discretion vital. Must be able to make property purchases, write speeches and organise dinners with local media chiefs without any of this getting into the papers because, frankly, I'm getting fed up with all the badmouthing I get around the parish when I am just trying to do my job supporting Tony and juggling the demands of a full-time career plus being a wife and mother and a good friend to Carole and her mother Loopie who've never done any harm to anyone. *Put this in, Alastair, and see if someone can do a better job than your partner Fiona!*

Apply to the Vicarage, in confidence, marking all letters "Cherie's PR Job".

The Editor reserves the right to print in full any advertisements which show the Vicar's wife in her true light, since this is what I've had to put up with for six years! A.C.

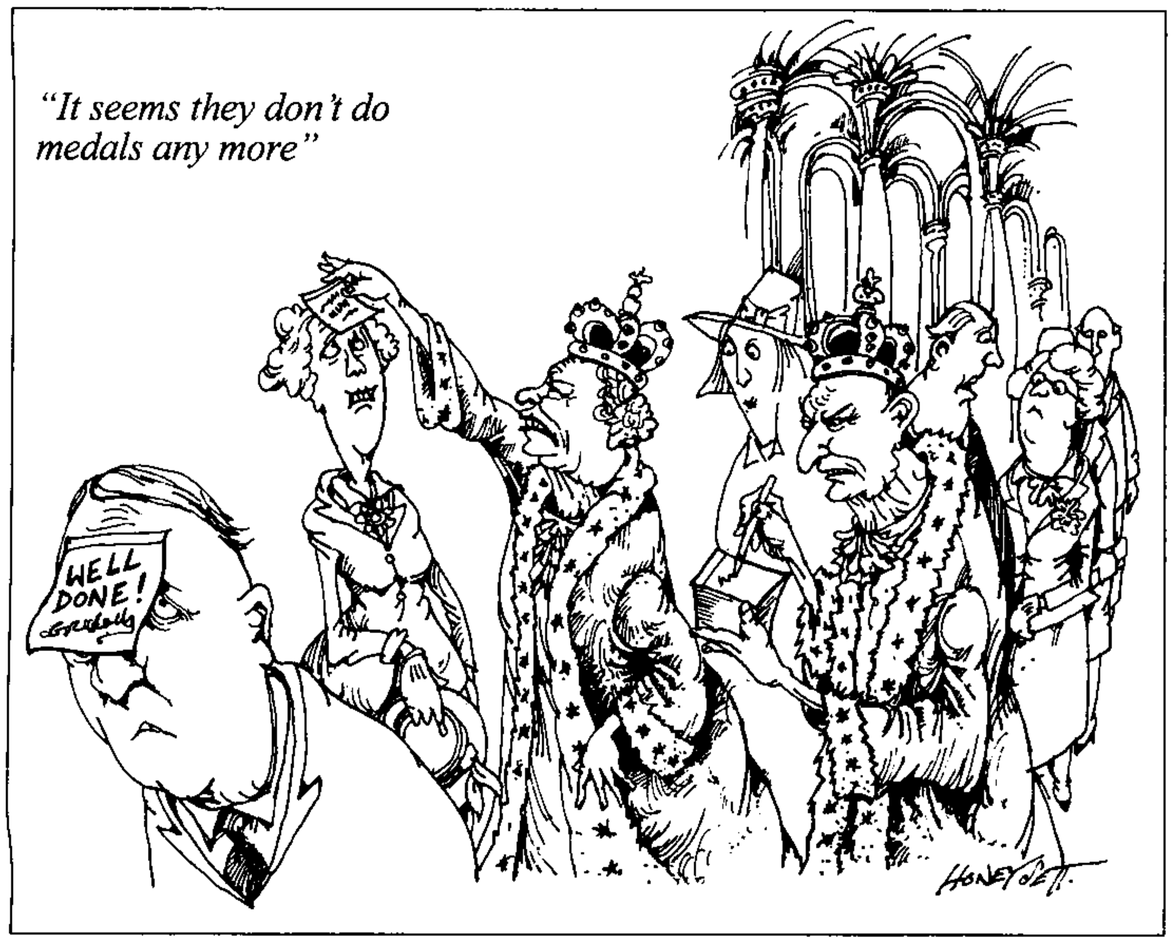
Parish Meetings

● There was a very good turn-out for the special workshop organised by our former Churchwarden Mr Mandelson to discuss "The Third Way, The Truth and The Need To Get A Life". We were particularly pleased to welcome back the Vicar's old friend, the Rev. Clintstone of the Church of the Seven-Day Fornicators, who entertained us with a few bars on his saxophone! At the end of the meeting, a resolution was agreed, calling for "A fully pro-active and sustainable strategy for promoting third-way solutions to all the problems of mankind".

Some very unusual "drizzle cakes" were then handed round by Mr Mandelson's partner, Mr de Silva! The evening was generously sponsored by the *Handy Mandy Odd Job Agency – Anything Legal Considered, No Job Too Big For Me To Take On!* A.C.

WHO SAYS THE VICAR'S WIFE HAS GOT NO FANS?

Look! Here are three little maids from South Korea with as many fans as you could possibly want!! T.B.



POLLY FILLER

I EXPECT you're all wanting to know – 'Did Polly Win The Mothers' Race?'

It's the annual nightmare for all of us working mums who don't have the time to train all year – unlike some of the full-time (oh yes?) mothers who spend all day in the gym getting ready to show off at Sports Day. No names but you know who you are Rachel, Sophie and Sarah!!!

Personally, I think it's a shame that some women take the whole thing so seriously – investing in running-spikes, lycra shorts and hi-energy drinks. But since a minority insist on treating it like the Olympics (!), one has no option but to join them.

So there I was on the morning of the great day, all kitted out in the latest gear, having had six weeks with a personal fitness trainer to get me into shape!

NEEDLESS to say disaster struck! The au pair came downstairs to tell me that Charlie was throwing up everywhere and that in her opinion he ought to see a doctor. (As though the medical views of a 17-year-old Somalian were of any interest!!)

So what to do? Obviously I had to get my priorities right. Charlie had to come first. So without hesitation I decided that Charlie would have to miss Sports Day and I packed him and Nkwange into a taxi to go to the surgery.

A couple of days later he was as right as rain and do you know what really put the colour back in his cheeks? The news that his mother had romped home in the Mothers' Race in his absence (as recorded on video by the useless Simon, taking time out from watching *Pro-Celebrity Beheading* from Jeddah with Paul Ross and A.A. Gill on the Al-Sky-Jeera Extreme Fundamentalist Channel).

Yes, I admit it. I won again (with a new Nursery School record!!). But let's remember – it's not the winning that's important. It's the turning it into a column.

© Polly Filler (15.27 seconds, wind adjusted!)

HOLLYWOOD MAN DIES

by Our Entire Staff

ALEXANDER Walker, who watched many Hollywood films in his career as a film critic, died yesterday.

Full Story, Tributes and Obituary pp. 84-90 *(exclusive to all newspapers)*

Advertisement

Home Office Open Door Policy

HEY, YOU! WANNA BE A HIGH COURT JUDGE?

All rise!

Would you like to be a High Court judge? The Government is looking for volunteers to take on one of the most exciting jobs in Britain today – judging.

And don't be put off by old-fashioned ideas that judges are elderly upper-class men in wigs and pin-stripe suits.

That's all changed. The 21st century judge of today is much more likely to be a twenty-something, black, single mother who is having to work part-time because one of the old-fashioned judges sent her husband to gaol for selling dope. *(Is this right? Ed.)*

Simply fill in the form below (or get help from a friend if you are educationally disadvantaged) and send it to Lord Falconer "Special Judge Offer", High Court, The Strand.

Tick the following boxes:

I am

- ☐ White
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Heterosexual
- ☐ Latin Speaker
- ☐ Member of Garrick Club

NB. If you have ticked any of these boxes, you are definitely not what we are looking for! Either that, or you are Lord Falconer!

TOP AUTHOR ATTACKS CHILDREN'S BOOK

by Our Literary Staff **David Sexedup**

BOOKER prize-winning novelist A.S. Byatt today lashed out at the children's publishing phenomenon which has spawned merchandising and spin-offs all around the world.

"The thing I can't bear about the Mr Men books," she told the prestigious New York Review of Missing The Point, "is that they are aimed at people with a reading age of 4. The plots are formulaic and predictable and the characterisation is absurdly simplistic. Mr Happy is always happy. Mr Sneezy does little more than sneeze. Mr Angry manages merely to lose his temper on every page."

Don't Byatt

She concluded, "These books are aimed at people with a low attention span rather than those with a detailed knowledge of Victorian post-modernism and 19th-Century poetry."

A.S. Byatt is 82 (million pounds poorer than J.K. Rowling).

'Archer's Out!'

BLAIRS GO TO CLIFF'S VILLA

We're all going on a freebie holiday!
No more paying for a week or three...
We're all going on a freebie holiday!
No more WMD!

Everybody laughed when Edouard tried on his latest 'See-Thru-A-Scope' X-ray Secret Agent Spectacles which he had recently purchased from his 'Innovations' catalogue

EXCLUSIVE TO EVERY NEWSPAPER

DANGERS OF THE INTERNET

THE ABDUCTION of 12-year-old Shevaun Pennington has highlighted the dangers for children on the Internet. Why are children encouraged by their parents to sit for hours on the Internet when they could be playing happily in the street or park?

ON OTHER PAGES

★ Evil sex beasts loose on British streets **8-15** ★ Perverts target parks and municipal playgrounds **17-28** ★ Why your child is at risk of being snatched any time, even in broad daylight **34-48**

RESCUE 'NOT TO BE MADE INTO A FILM'

by **Ryan Private**

THERE was astonishment today when it was announced that Hollywood wouldn't be turning the dramatic rescue of the 12-year-old British girl from U.S. marine Toby Studabaker into a film.

"If only she'd have been a brave U.S. marine called Private Jessica and he'd have been an evil Iraqi and we were allowed to make up everything that happened, it would have been perfect" said one disappointed Hollywood... *(cont'd. p. 94)*

Late Legal News

DESPITE its defeat in the Lords, the Government has unveiled a new set of proposals for scrapping Trial by Jury, based on an American model.

Previously

1. Defendants tried before a jury of their peers on the basis of evidence presented by the prosecution
2. Defendants can only be found guilty after that evidence is scrutinised by the defence and the jury returns a unanimous verdict

In Future

1. George Bush says they're all bad people
2. Er... That's it.

Daily Mail

FRIDAY, JULY 25, 2003

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Do women look good in bikinis?

Pages 24-25 A Daily Mail Investigation

90-80-70 (Thousand)!!!

HOUSE PRICES SLUMP AS BRITAIN SIZZLES

By Our Property Staff
Gavin Stamp-Duty

ILLIONS of Britons faced ancial ruin last night, as aring temperatures sent uses, literally, into melt- wn.

From Rhyl to Ramsgate, from deen to Aberdovey, the story he same.

Rubbish

ome owners could only stand and watch as their houses liquified before their eyes.

As Sahara-style temperatures threatened to scorch Britain to a cinder, one distraught householder, Mrs Trish Madeupname, 42, wept openly as she told of how her three-bedroom semi-detached in leafy Chorleywood had turned into a puddle of soggy rubble in just minutes.

"I couldn't believe it," she said. "I was out sunbathing in my underwear *(see pics page 9, 10, 11)* and I thought to myself, I'd like a nice cup of tea.

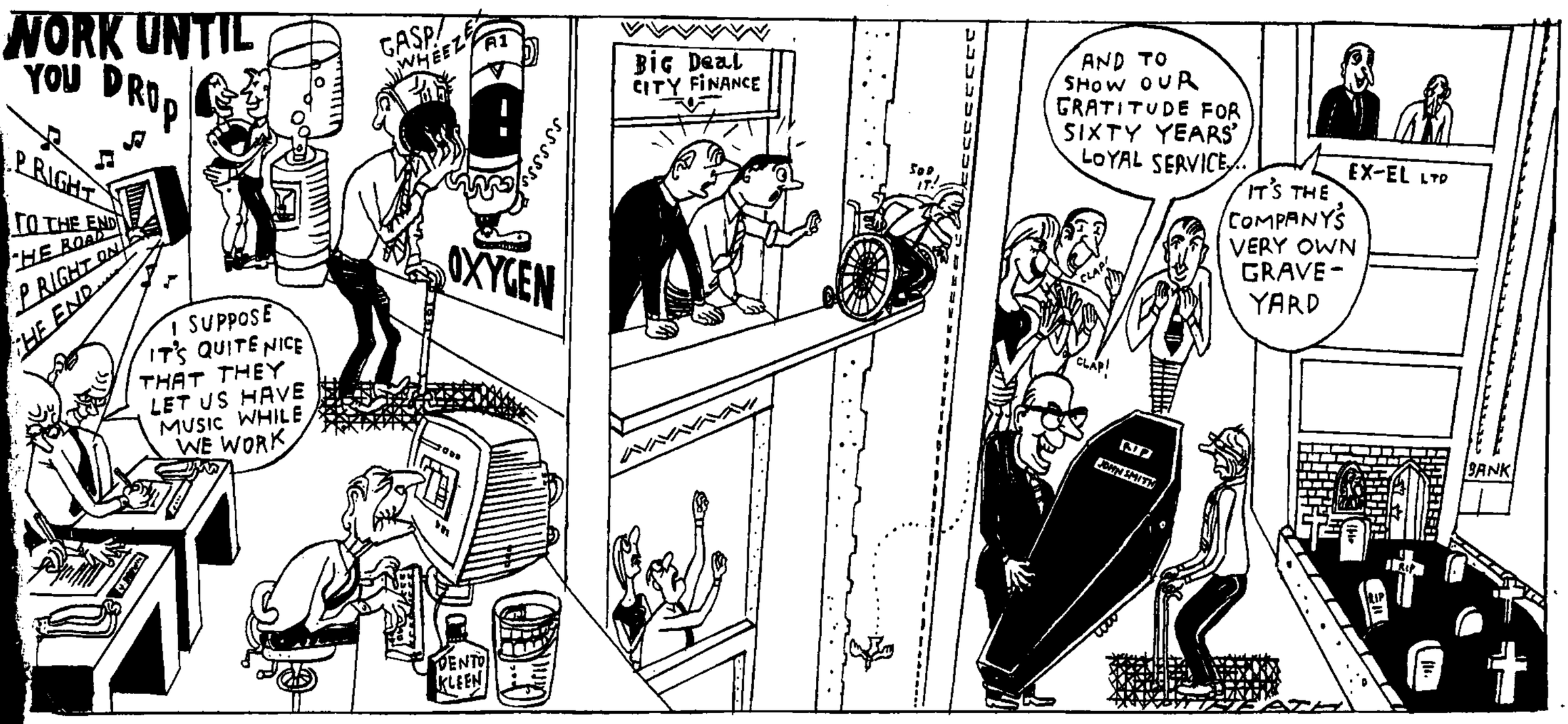
"Then, when I turned round, my house had just melted away."

More rubbish

Estate agents were last night predicting that if the countrywide property meltdown continued, many homes would soon be almost worthless.

Said Justin Bogus, from the respected firm of Bogus and Imaginary, "It's a nightmare scenario. One minute we've got properties worth £30 billion on our books. The next minute we've got nothing.

"The government must step in now and give us lots of money."



BBC Radio 3

Opera on 3

Der Italianische Schweinhund

Gerhard Schroeder (1802-1861)

Opera in Three Acts

Act 1

The villain Berlusconi, an Italian robber chieftain, enters a wood near Brussels disguised as the prime minister of Italy. He points at a harmless German woodcutter, Schultz, and sings the aria *Du Bist Ein Nazi Kommandant.*

Act 2

There has been a revolution. Berlusconi is universally vilified and the patriotic citizens of Germany all refuse to go on holiday in Italy. They sing the famous Sunlounger Chorus *Wirfahren Nicht.*

Act 3

An unrepentant Berlusconi, now disguised as the President of the EU, accuses the German tourists of being fat, lager-drinking pigs in the cavatina *Die Grosse Schweinen von Deutschland.* War is declared between the two nations, and the opera comes to an abrupt end.

The Strasbourg Opera Chorus and Orchestra are conducted by Romano Prodi. The part of Windbaggio, the comic policeman, is sung by the Welsh tenor Neil Kinnock.

'Totalische und Utterlische'

TV Highlights

Fortysomething Viewers (ITV1)

HILARIOUS comedy drama about a middleaged man (**Nigel Pickard**) who experiences a career crisis when he suddenly realises that no one wants to watch his prime-time TV shows.

CLARKE'S NEW ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL EXAM SHOCKER

by Our Education Staff **Lunchtime O'Level**

BRITAIN's schools were rocked to their foundations yesterday when education secretary Charles Clarke unveiled the biggest shake-up in the exam system since last year.

Out go boring, difficult-to-mark A Levels, AS Levels and GCSEs.

In comes the new, student-friendly 'Baccaloser' system based on a self-assessment marking procedure, which will allow candidates for the exams to decide themselves whether they have passed or passed.

"Under the new system," said Mr Clarke, "Britain will have the best record for exam passes in the world."

Cross Heads

Instead of successful candidates receiving a boring certificate or diploma to record their academic achievement, they will each now be given a t-shirt bearing the legend "I Went To School And All I Got Was This Lousy T-Shirt".

"One size will fit all," said Mr Clarke.

Mr Fungus the Bogeyman is 59.

You Name The Murdoch Baby

WHAT should the Digger's Daughter be called?

You decide

- **Rebekah**
- **Sky**
- **Fox**
- **The Times of London**
- **Page 3 Stunna**
- **Love Rat Hewitt Should be Shot**
- **Dirty Rat Gilligan To Blame**

(That's enough names. Ed.)

SKY NEWS 'TOTALLY FAKE'

by Our Media Correspondent **Clifford Irving**

THERE was no shock whatsoever today after it was revealed that Sky News isn't a real news channel.

"We've had our suspicions for some time that this isn't a real world news channel," said one journalist. "You only have to look at their simplistic jingoistic coverage of the war in Iraq to know this is nothing more than the front end of Channel 5 News crudely welded to the back end of CNN."

the PREMIERSH*TS

IF GEORGE BEST HAD BEEN A PREMIERSHIP PLAYER...
OOH GEORGE
HE WOULD HAVE HAD EVEN MORE WOMEN...
MORE DRINK...
THEY DIDN'T DO PINTS OF ABSINTHE IN MY DAY, NOI!
AND AN EVEN BETTER CONTRACT!
£200,000 A WEEK PLUS 3 MATCHING LIVERS?
AGENT
AGREED
AND PUT THE LIVERS ON ICE

ME AND MY SPOON

THIS WEEK

MICHAEL FOOT

Mr Foot, now that you are 90, have you in any way revised your views on spoons?

Well, you know, many of us who lived through the Thirties...terrible times... rise of Fascism... millions unemployed... men and women having to go to work with no spoons... great achievement of the Labour government... Nye Bevan... courageous campaign... spoons for all... of course he was vilified by the Tory press barons... but, thank goodness, those days are gone and I'm proud to have been part of the fight to get rid of the

Mr Foot, do you...

...no, that's all very well but i you go back to the 18th century Rousseau told that men were bo free but everywhere they had n spoons... I think you'll find that what he said... Tom Paine and great declaration and the Rights Spoon... Swift, the great satirist Gulliver's Spoons... hugely influential... even today...

Mr Foot, could I...

No, no, you're like Mr Blair, you want to silence the critics, sweep it all under the carpet... like Suez, you know... they mi the country then, and they're doing it again now... that's wh made people like Hazlitt so angry... I've got the book her could show it to you... I had a edition, you know, signed by t author, H.G. Wells.

Mr Foot, could I bring you ba to the subject of spoons, and if anything amusing has ever happened to you in connecti with them?

There you go again, it's no laughing matter when there a still working people in this co who haven't got two spoons t together, while others have g millions of spoons, houses fu them. But that's not somethi you'll find Mr Blair talking about....

NEXT WEEK: Alistair Darli *"Me and My Darling."*

How Low Can You Stoop?

JAMES HEWITT's decision to broadcast the contents of letters from the late Princess Diana must rank as the most sordid act of betrayal in the history of treachery.

His squalid cashing-in on his sexual relationship with the late Princess of Wales under the guise of "historical record" is nothing more than a disgraceful act of seedy commercial exploitation. The letters were private and should have remained so, and her beloved sons should not have to read this tawdry filth.

On Other Pages

- Those Dirty Di Letters in full **2,3,4**
- How Good was Di In Bed? **5**
- Is Harry Hewitt's Love Child? **6**
- Simulated pix of Di and Hewitt at it **7, 8, 9, 10, 11**
- Unfunny Hewitt cartoon by Hac **69**

It's all in today's Special Soaraway Bumper Hewitt-Is-A-Bastard Souvenir Issue!!! Hurry, hurry, whilst shock lasts!

"I understand the monkfish here is a speciality of the house"

PAPERS 'BACK ON THE BEST'

by Our Media Staff **Mutt and Jeff Bemard**

AFTER several months of abstinence, Britain's newspapers have fallen off the wagon in a spectacular orgy of articles about George Best.

For years it has been known that newspapers had a serious "Best problem". They couldn't get enough of him, day after day running huge articles about him being drunk.

At one time the Best addiction got so bad it looked as though it might kill off any interest in newspapers for ever.

But then, a year ago, came the heartening news that the papers had kicked the Best habit for good.

For weeks they didn't touch him at all, preferring a sober diet of harmless stories about David Beckham.

But yesterday it all went horribly wrong. As Best raised a glass to his lips, millions of hacks gave in to temptation and went on a three-day binge, writing article after article until they were all under the table with exhaustion.

On Other Pages

- **I was an alcoholic** 2
- **So was I** 3
- **My wife was** 3
- **My husband is** 4

Plus Dr Raj Perfraud, Dr James Le Foney and Dr Thomas Utterfraud on "What Happens When You Get Drunk".

JEWISH COMEDIAN FLIES IN

by Our Man In The Front Stalls Of The Royal Opera House, **Jack E. Mason**

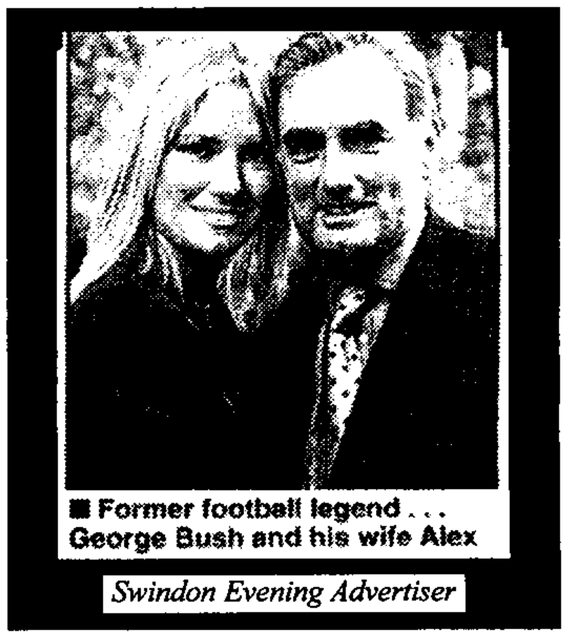
THE JEWISH comedian who has been hailed as the world's funniest man took centre stage in London last night and had audiences weeping uncontrollably with his own brand of tear gas.

Ariel Sharon has lost none of his old flair for slaying them in the aisles, as he showed when he quipped, "You want a settlement? I'll build you hundreds of them!"

And there was more. "Every time I tell that joke," he went on, "I bring the house down. Pity it had so many people still inside it!"

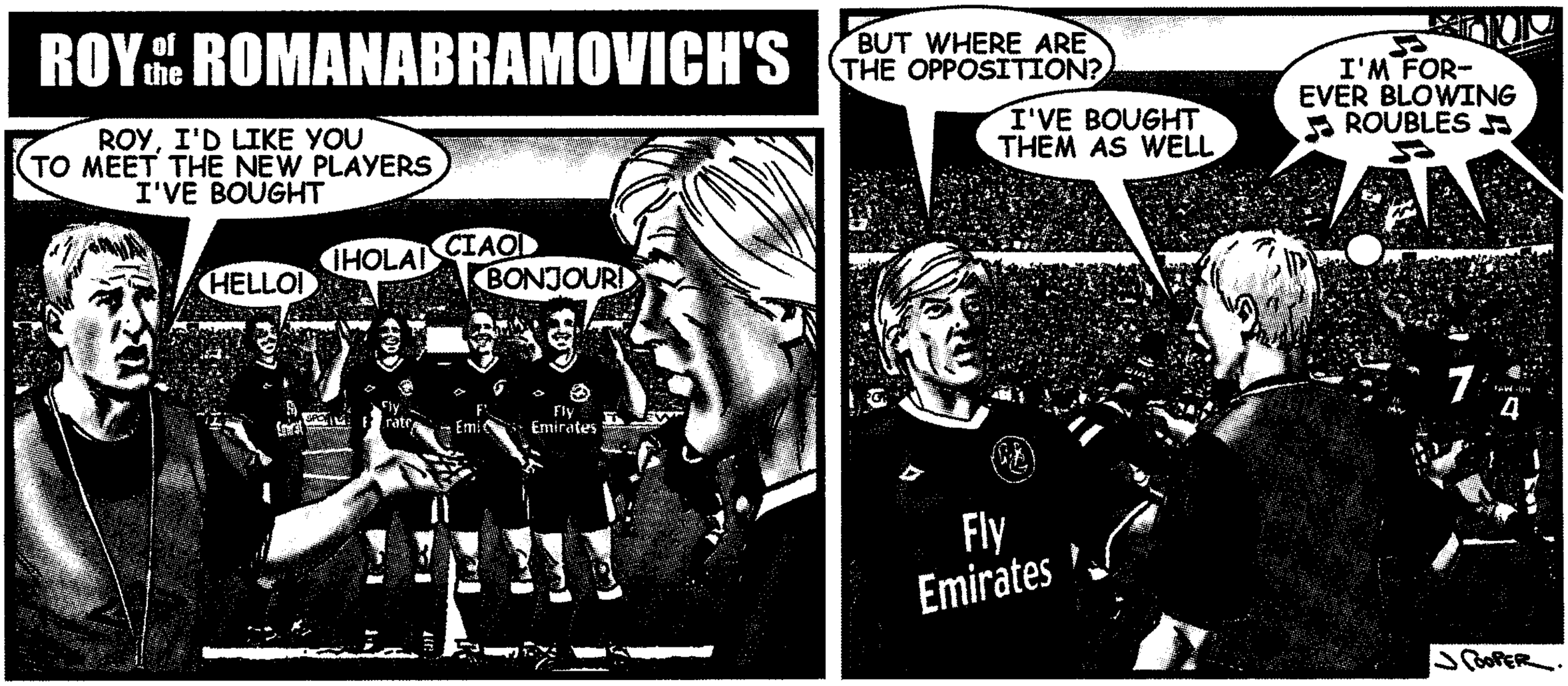
Even though the audience had heard this routine many times before, they nevertheless gave him a standing ovation, leaping to their feet and pleading with him not to shoot.

Jackie Mason is 103.



■ **Former football legend . . . George Bush and his wife Alex**

Swindon Evening Advertiser



"What a great pub, eh? A huge selection of drinks and Catholic guilt as well"

Man Found With Work On Computer

by Our Internet Staff **P.D. File**

THE AUTHORITIES were warned of the growing "misuse" of computers by men who are using the internet to access "work-related" sites.

"This is not what computers are for," said a spokesman for the industry. "It is shocking, but we believe it is only a very small minority of men who are using their computers in this way."

Apple Dirty Mac

This follows the discovery of an unnamed man who was caught in his office writing an email to a work colleague. The man claimed that it was the first time he had ever done such a thing and he was merely doing it "out of curiosity".

The Internut

The 37-year-old recipient of the email was, however, "appalled" by the content of the communication which made graphic references to "outstanding invoices" and "unissued receipts".

Said the industry spokesman, "This is an abuse of the proper function of information technology, which is designed to facilitate the downloading of pornography and the attempted abduction of minors via chatrooms."

COUGH WAKES EVERYONE UP

by **Quentin Lettspretend**

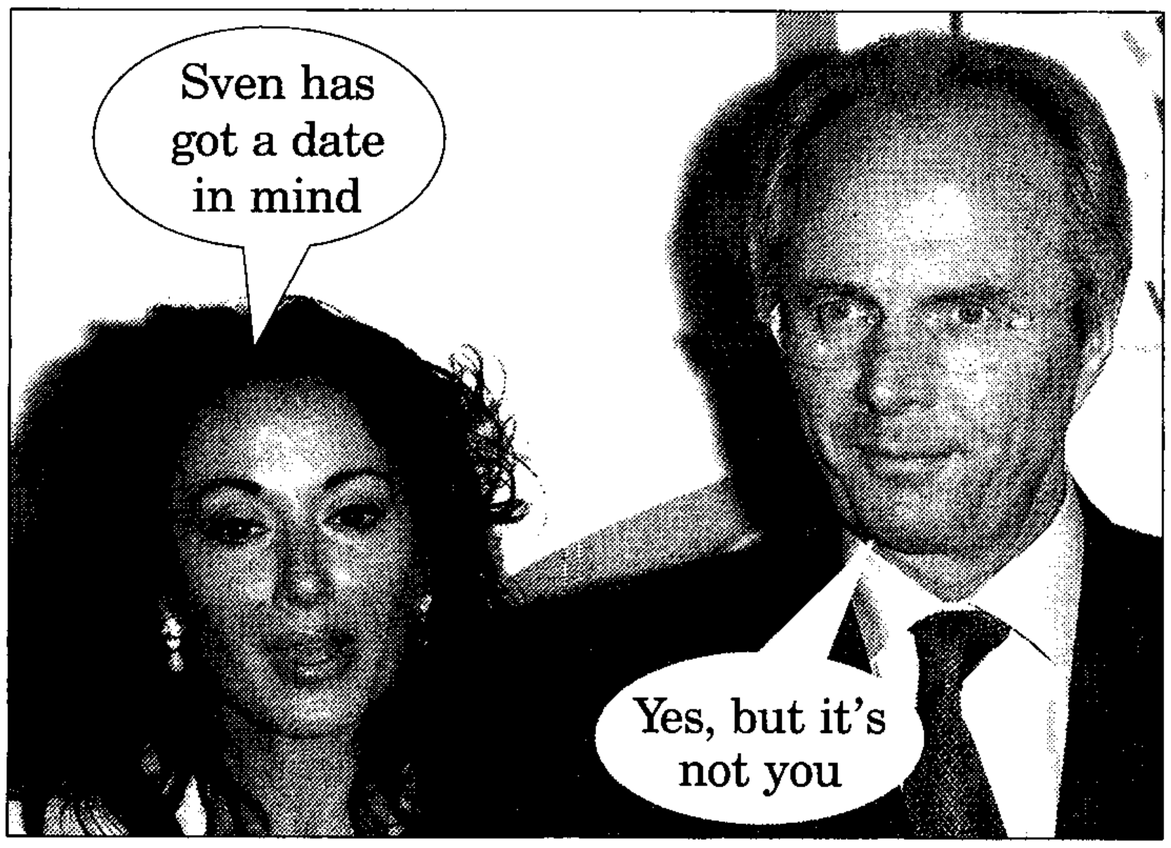
MPs were suddenly woken from a long sleep yesterday by the sound of the Opposition leader, Mr Iain Duncan Cough, criticising the government.

"It was outrageous," said one senior Tory, Sir Cormack Bormack. "It is not the job of the Leader of the Opposition to criticise the elected government of this country, particularly when the Prime Minister has just won a historic victory over our enemies.

"I suggest that Mr Cough would be best advised to stay silent, as he has so successfully done for so long."

But other Tory MPs were delighted by the new "sounding" Cough. "If Iain carries on like this," said one euphoric backbencher, "he could well be in line to be the next Leader of the Opposition."

NANCY ANNOUNCES ENGAGEMENT



New From Gnome

THE *Diana* LAWYER

AT LAST you can own this beautiful memento of the historic litigation which bankrupted the Memorial Fund for Diana, the late Princess of Wales.

This charming statuette, handcrafted in "porcelain-style" Gnomalin by world-famous Royal sculpturologist Sir Geraldo di Scarfini, depicts a traditional British "lawyer", carrying a brief in one hand and a huge sack of money in the other. In years to come, your children will cherish this delightful artefact, which so superbly evokes one of the most heart-warming episodes in our island's story.

Don't be disappointed. Book now to reserve your limited edition statuette, of which only 7 million have been cast (18mm high).

Send Cash Only To:
The Gnome Diana Lawyer Doll Offer, Unit 7,
The Prescott Trading Estate, Ashford, Kent.
£279.99 (+ p&p),
VAT not included.

DIARY

MICK JAGGER AT 60

The Duchess of Devonshire, aristocrat: Awfully few people realise quite how talented at needlework Mick is. The last time he came to stay at Chatsworth, the rest of us were dancing to some old Rolling Stones records after lunch – my absolute favourite is "I Simply Cannot Get Any Satisfaction", do you know it? – while Mick was sitting quietly in a corner dutifully performing his petit point on a favourite draught-excluder.True to his word, he had the draught-excluder ready for the ball we were giving in the evening. He pushed it down the front of his tight satin trousers just before the first guests arrived. Needless to say, they were all simply fascinated – couldn't talk of anything else. Marvellous!

William Shawcross, Royal biographer: It's an open secret that the Queen Mother was very taken with Mick Jagger throughout the 1960s and well into the 1970s. She went to all his concerts, always mouthing the words, and in 1970 put a strong case for the Band of the Royal Dragoons to play a brass version of Honky Tonk Woman for the State Visit of Indira Gandhi. The suggestion was over-ruled by the Duke of Edinburgh, who preferred "Puppet on a String", the Sandy Shaw Eurovision winner.

From her correspondence, it is becoming clear she could never forgive the Duchess of Windsor for conducting a passionate affair with Jagger on the Cote d'Azur in the spring and summer of '67. At that time, he was also seeing a lot of Margaret Trudeau, Maria Callas and Gracie Fields, but the Queen Mother did her level best to conceal any feelings of jealousy she may have had. Despite it all, they remained firm friends, and Jagger was delighted to be invited to perform a live medley from his "Get Yer Ya-Yas Out" album at her 90th birthday celebrations, accompanied by the then Prince Edward on harmonica.

Nicky Haslam, interior designer: Oh God, he's the most learned man I know. There's nothing he hasn't read. I once saw him reading a Penguin Classic by the swimming pool in Antibes. He knew it off by heart. I think it was the one where Batman is trapped in a shark-infested swamp.

John Richardson, art historian: I've stayed with him at his chateau, La Fourchette, and that's where you see a very different Mick. He got Alvilde Lees-Milne to lay out a marvellous formal garden in deep, deep crimsons and gorgeous rich vivid scarlets, all in the shape of the trademark Rolling Stones' tongue. Keith Richards did most of the donkey-work – digging, hoeing, weeding and what-not – while Mick employed the shovel as a faux microphone, strutting up and down the lawn belting out a selection of Stones' classics, including Cherry Oh Baby from the to my mind tremendously under-rated Goat's Head Soup album.

Dickie Bird, umpire: Mick's a down-to-earth lad who enjoys his cricket. He knows his game, knows his cricket, does Mick. Very clued-up. T'last time I sees him bowl, he takes a very, very long, long run-up, almost to t'pavilion, then for the next ten minutes or so he wiggles and struts his way to t'crease, with left hand on t'hip. Finally, he bowls the ball. Not that he bowls it himself, mind, he employs a professional to bowl if for him, because by now he's exhausted, and anyway, with his money he can afford it, that lad.

Tony Blair, Prime Minister: Crikey, he's the one guy I always wanted to be. I sometimes feel this isn't me at the despatch box in this suit and tie and short hair and everything. In my mind, I'm in a one-piece satin jumpsuit embroidered with a thousand sequins, singing my rocks off. That's the kind of guy I am.

Y'know, when I'm behind a podium talking to some kinda conference, I sometimes wish I could just boogie on down and strut my stuff. Frankly, he's been a very deep and powerful influence on this government. The first side of the Exile on Main Street album has been the great motivating force behind this year's road-widening programme, and I know David Blunkett couldn't stop listening to Sticky Fingers while drawing up his plans for compulsory Identity Cards. Wooh! 'Ow ya all doin' at the back, then? Great!

Lord Rees-Mogg, columnist and clairvoyant: As one grows older, which, willy-nilly, one does, one finds oneself changing one's mind as to which of the many Rolling Stones recordings is one's personal favourite.

Like many of my generation, I have a complete collection of Rolling Stones discs, dating from a much-prized 78rpm waxing of their (somewhat raucous!) 1953 cover version of Arthur Askey's "Buzz Buzz Buzz, Buzzy Bee" right up to a live bootleg of their recent "Got Royal If You Want It" set at Prince William's recent birthday party.

Jagger is not, to my mind, absolutely first-rate. I would place him as poor first-rate, or good second-rate, or possibly excellent third-rate. And what does the future hold for him? It seems to me that the second half of this year will undoubtedly produce some interesting changes in the composition of the Rolling Stones. Jagger will take on the role of drummer, with Charlie Watts as lead vocalist. And I rather think Brian Jones will be brought back to give the group that bit of extra "oomph".

Keith Richards, guitarist: Mick? Mick? In't he the one 'oo died? What a drag.

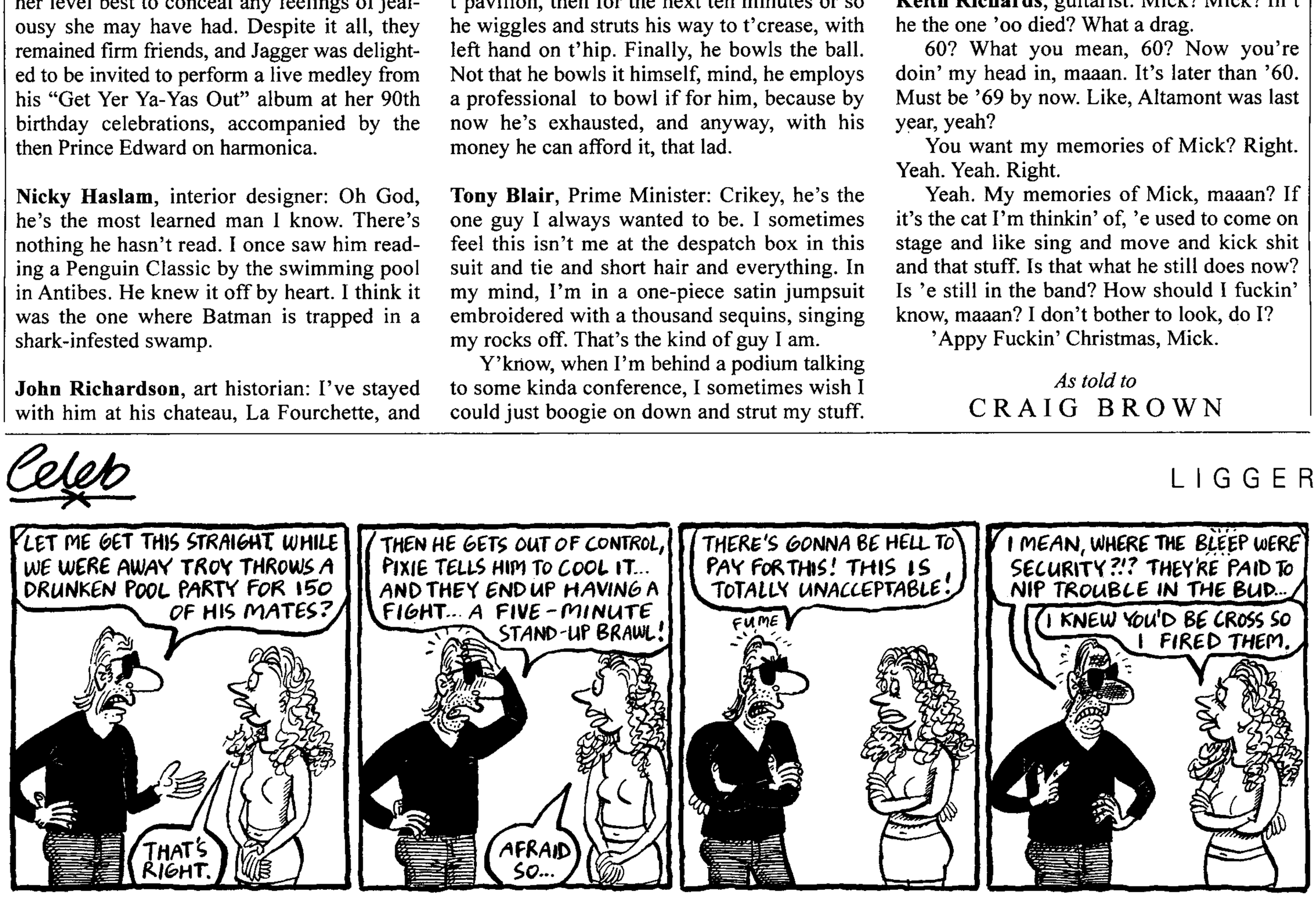
60? What you mean, 60? Now you're doin' my head in, maaan. It's later than '60. Must be '69 by now. Like, Altamont was last year, yeah?

You want my memories of Mick? Right. Yeah. Yeah. Right.

Yeah. My memories of Mick, maaan? If it's the cat I'm thinkin' of, 'e used to come on stage and like sing and move and kick shit and that stuff. Is that what he still does now? Is 'e still in the band? How should I fuckin' know, maaan? I don't bother to look, do I?

'Appy Fuckin' Christmas, Mick.

As told to
CRAIG BROWN


LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT. WHILE WE WERE AWAY TROY THROWS A DRUNKEN POOL PARTY FOR 150 OF HIS MATES?
THAT'S RIGHT.
THEN HE GETS OUT OF CONTROL, PIXIE TELLS HIM TO COOL IT... AND THEY END UP HAVING A FIGHT... A FIVE-MINUTE STAND-UP BRAWL!
AFRAID SO...
THERE'S GONNA BE HELL TO PAY FOR THIS! THIS IS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE!
FUME
I MEAN, WHERE THE BLEEP WERE SECURITY?!? THEY'RE PAID TO NIP TROUBLE IN THE BUD...
I KNEW YOU'D BE CROSS SO I FIRED THEM.

Literary Review

River Café Cook Book Greasy

River Café
Cook Book Easy
Rose Gray and Ruth Rogers
(Ebury Press, £20)

DELIA too mumsie? Jamie too laddish? Nigella too saucy and Stein too cod-elegiac? Never fear. Rose and Ruth are here to appease your rather more exacting kitchen gods. Two fat ladies they're not. With their smart white coats they look almost clinical. Scientific, at least, in their steely hi-tech laboratory. But don't be fooled by the image. Just like the war in Iraq, it's all about oil.

This is the restaurant partners' fifth book in eight years. Inevitably there's a certain amount of duplication. They would not be the first food writers to recycle or "update" their recipes. Or indeed to simplify them for a new readership. Let's not call it dumbing down. Let's just say, where once they might have catered for the reasonably ambitious cook preparing a dinner for eight or 10 persons (someone who knew the difference between a mezzaluna and a pair of half-moon specs), now the recipes are for only four persons and aimed at someone who needs to be told how to make beans on toast.

Oh all right, borlotti beans with roasted tomatoes on bruschetta. Still, it's not exactly rocket science (and it's only slightly harder than rocket salad). Easy is not the word: this is cooking by numbers. (Big rainbow-hued kindergarten numbers, whole pages of them to index and order the recipes.) The beans on toast is only one of 24 recipes for bruschetta which take up the first section of the book. Others include ham or cheese on toast (prosciutto, mozzarella), asparagus, zucchini, chickpeas and so on, in various mix-n-match combinations. You get the general idea. Do you need 24 separate recipes with 24 different photographs to tell you how to conjure up these tasty contemporary snacks?

Some recipes are a tad more complicated, it's true. A photographic demonstration of stuffing zucchini florets with ricotta cheese may be quite useful, but do we really need a huge photograph to show us how grilled tomatoes are supposed to look (slightly burnt). Do we need a whole page for a recipe that tells you to season with salt and pepper, then grill. Just remember to drizzle on plenty of that "ex. v. olive oil" as Rose'n'Ruth rather Bridget Jonesily write it.

Let us consider this trendy word "drizzle", because it comes up an awful lot. For what they have in mind, which is the action of dripping and drooling the thick green unguent straight from the bottle, a better word would be "drivel". And how Rose'n'Ruth love to drivel over their food! Whether it's antipasti, such as lentil with ricotta, a salad of crab and fennel, a broad bean soup, spaghetti with zucchini and capers, roasted langoustines, dover sole with capers or grilled partridge, it's drizzle, drizzle, drizzle all the way. When they're not drizzling they're marinating, heating, mixing, pouring, stirring, tossing in or adding. There's barely a recipe in the book that doesn't involve plethy of that ex. v. olive oil somewhere. (Okay, lets count them. Out of 154 savoury dishes, 129 use olive oil. And of these, 65 involve drizzling.)

That's an awful lot of oil. And remember, only the best will do. So where can you buy it?

Well, since you ask, it just so happens the River Café Restaurant has recently started bottling and selling its own. It now stocks four different single estate cold pressed Tuscan olive oils. Every one of them an extra virgin, as the song goes. You can buy them at the restaurant or on the website or from a number of the specialist suppliers listed in the back of this book. Very nice they are, too. But at £25 a litre is it really the sort of stuff you should be cooking all your recipes with?

Of course, you could buy your oil in the supermarket. You could call it beans on toast. But it wouldn't be the same. Because the whole premise of this book is to use wonderfully simple, delicious and incredibly expensive ingredients and then not in the end have to do very much to them. And when it all goes wrong, why, you just pour oil on troubled recipes.

WHAT YOU DIDN'T MISS, Pt 94

The Rules of Engagement
Anita Brookner
(Viking, £16.99)

IT WILL not perhaps be thought imprudent of me to acknowledge that my first encounter with my friend Honoria de Chastelaine came at school, that repository of juvenile hope and aspiration... And indeed, one might say promise, were it not that promise was not a quality that either of us, certainly at the time at which we first became cognisant of its lustre, here in the uncontentious hinterlands of the 1950s, were at all endowed.

Yet I suppose we were contented enough. We were the most ordinary and punctilious little girls, Honoria and I, going to tea in one another's houses in Sloane Square, shopping at Harrods and Peter Jones, chatting, in that engaged and yet curiously phantasmal way that children have, about our coming out balls and the orange blossoms that would strew the paths, both real and metaphorical I presumed, that we should later negotiate through life.

At the same time it was clear, to the point where it became something of an anomaly in our midst, that there were areas of uncertainty that it was better not to reveal. In adult life these took on more recognisable shapes, whereas in childhood they expressed themselves with perhaps greater subtlety than either she or I was aware. Hope had been denied, and one sometimes saw this in the odd distant glance directed at a cigarette packet or the desire to occupy a seat on the upper rather than the lower compartment of an omnibus.

There was a moment, during a visit which I paid her in my teens, to that room on the ultimate story of the gloomy house in Knightsbridge where she spun out the patterns of her young life – the life before Jean-Claude, Paris and so much that lay ahead – when these affiliations became uncompromisingly clear.

"Will you take tea?" she enquired, and, when the accoutrements of this late-afternoon refection had been procured, "actually we prefer our tea with the milk poured into the cup first."

This, clearly, was evidence of a shift in direction, a change of tack, like a ship silently yet irrevocably altering its course across the surface of a great ocean. Yet more was to come. For, as she bent to offer me a ham sandwich, lying on a plate that even I in my young adulthood could discern was of considerable antiquity, it became clear that someone, perhaps even Honoria herself, had omitted to remove the crusts.

"No thank you," I replied. "I do not wish for a sandwich."

It was a symbolic moment. I wished that I possessed something of that quality, yet I also knew, knew indisputably and ominously, that in this arrant sophistication, this piecemeal dissection of the solid flesh of our upbringing, lay the first hint of the catastrophe that would ensue. [*continues for some while*]

Books & Bookman

An Amazon Story

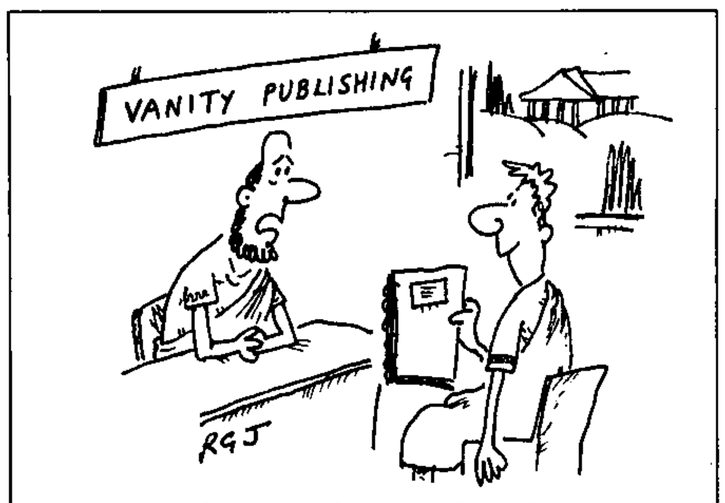
■ CONNOISSEURS of the work of Johann Hari, the *Independent*'s answer to Jayson Blair, the young *New York Times* hack who was sacked recently for Making It All Up (spot the difference: Hari hasn't been sacked) may be amused by the Amazon.com website.

Before Hari's literary talents were as widely known as they are today, he flexed his literary muscles by posting witty and acerbic reviews of the books of Cambridge University's professor of Greek literature and culture, Simon Goldhill, on the US version of the online booksellers.

On 4 June 2000, while still studying social and political sciences at Kings College, Hari posted the following about the prof's *Aeschylus: the Oresteia*: "Pompous drivvel [*sic*]. This Goldhill man has the prose style of a dead worm and even less warmth and charm. He clearly loves himself. Fine. Nobody else will."

Then on 23 October 2001 he posted a review of Goldhill's *Being*

SNIPCOCK & TWEED
WITH THE ATKINS DIET YOU CAN EAT ALL THE FATTY FOOD YOU LIKE!
MENU GOURMAND
- BECAUSE YOU'VE MADE SO MUCH MONEY SELLING THE ATKINS DIET!
MENU GOURMAND
IT'S EASY TO SCOFF



"Not another autobiography, Narcissus?"

Greek under Rome: "Yet more incoherent tripe from the king of nonsense. I thought that Simon Goldhill's corpus could not descend yet further into the bowels of mediocrity, tedium and sheer incoherent drivel. What a fool I was. But not as much a fool as Goldhill himself – although there is a certain canny genius in his ability to remain employed by Cambridge University despite the painful absence of anything even vaguely resembling talent. We can only pray that his employers finally read one of his 'books' and dismiss him forthwith."

Oooh! Whatever had the professor done to upset a young man who was bursting upon the journalistic scene with his imaginative accounts of drug taking and travel in Iraq (see *Eye* 1076). Hari was never taught by Goldhill while at Cambridge, although at the time, the *Eye* learns, the professor was Kings College's lay dean – ie dean of discipline. Perhaps some disciplinary matter gave rise to Hari's umbrage with the prof?

Neither party is willing to enlighten us much. Professor Goldhill declines to comment at all. Hari's comments are not much help either. The nicest thing he says about Goldhill is that he is "an all-round arsehole". Pressed, he denies there was any disciplinary matter and reveals that they once had a row over dinner about Mo Mowlam. It is all very mysterious.

At about the time Hari was poison-penning the prof on Amazon, he was also working for the greatest exponent of Making It All Up of them all – Jeffrey Archer. Lord Archole's prison diary for 7 August 2000 – while he was at Belmarsh – includes an account of opening his mail and receiving a letter from "my young researcher Johann Hari".

Hari tells the *Eye* a fearsome confidentiality clause prevents him from writing about his time at the feet of the master, but he clearly learned a lot.

'Bookworm'

That's showbizzzzz...

Ginger Nuts
Howard Johnson
(André Deutsch, £16.99)

THIS innocent-sounding title barely hints at the horrors within, for this is one of the more terrifyingly pointless publications of the decade: an unauthorised biography of Chris Evans.

What is it with publishers? Is there any celebrity so unappealing, so smug, so self-centred and so unutterably charmless they won't commission an unauthorised biography of him? Evans is only 37, but this is already the second book to be written about him, rehashing the same old stories, drawing the same old conclusions, and ready to be piled up in the same old bookshops to be ignored by the same old bookbuyers. The sheer waste of it all is enough to make you weep.

For Howard Johnson, though, this is presumably the big break. Described disarmingly on the cover as "a well-known entertainment journalist" (well known, presumably, to other well-known entertainment journalists), Johnson has had "unparalleled access to people who have worked with Evans over the years" (he has got their phone numbers from somewhere and rung them all up). There must be thousands of people in media London who would be delighted to dish the dirt on Evans, who has bullied and shouted his way to fame and wealth without worrying too much about the enemies he'd leave behind.

As well as unearthing some of these people, Johnson has skilfully photocopied articles about Evans in newspapers and magazines, reproducing their contents with the slight tut-tut that no celebrity biographer can resist. We can and must blame Andrew Morton for this cake-and-eat-it approach to biography, in which you constantly praise your subject while unearthing dozens of stories that show him to be an idiot. Evans is unusual in that we knew him to be an idiot anyway; what rings less true is Johnson's assertion that he is also a genius. Did *Don't Forget Your Toothbrush* really "establish him as the pre-eminent media figure in the country"? Is it really true to say that "an appearance on *TFI Friday* had huge social cachet"?

What actually comes through these pages is the dismal poverty of Evans's achievement. A dozen years ago he hosted a wonderful and memorable weekend radio show on the London station GLR (although Chris Morris's show was better). Then he wasn't bad on *The Big Breakfast*. And, er, that's it. Anyone who heard his brief spell on the Radio 1 breakfast show was witness to talent going bad — the bumptiousness was unbearable, the self-indulgence beyond imagination. Simon Garfield, who wrote an immeasurably better book about Radio 1, also contributes this book's best sentence: "He's an easy person to tire of."

By halfway Johnson is reduced to regurgitating old anecdotes about Evans whipping out his cock in public places. The second half of the book, dominated by tabloid news stories about Evans's money, drinking and love affairs, is almost unreadably boring. Throughout, Johnson tries to avoid using phrases like "crazy days and crazy, crazy nights" but sadly not quite hard enough.

Perhaps we shouldn't be too harsh on the writer, whoever he may be. There have always been showbiz biographies, and they have always been useless. What's new, since Fatty Morton started knocking out his so-called "books", is the spurious seriousness to which they all seem to aspire. *Ginger Nuts* is an expensive and well-packaged hardback, unlike most new novels published these days. By taking Evans seriously it seeks to be taken seriously itself. But a book like this just isn't good enough, on any level. High on waffle, low on analysis, *Ginger Nuts* fills the 256 pages that need to be filled, and that's about all it does — other than prove that publishers will put out anything if they think it'll sell. And that will have to do, until the next pointless biography of Chris Evans in about five years' time.

SOMERVILLE. On 12th May, 2003, at The Queen Mother's Hospital, Glasgow, to Ronnie and Fiona (McVey), a son and brother for Nicola. Clue: 2 Down: Russian domain mounts singular attack on hydrogen (periodically), in the Gaelic. Thanks to all staff at The Queen Mother's Hospital, especially midwives Rosemary and Ruth.

Birth announcement, *Glasgow Herald*

Pseuds Corner

I suspect it is something to do with the collaborative process of film acting; the shared performance and, maybe, the necessity to, temporarily perhaps the ego and emphasise with the subject. If it is not too pretentious an extrapolation, it's the communitarian demands of acting that are best suited to those of a vaguely socialistic ideology.

ROD LIDDLE
Guardian

I like this piece of music because it is a dissemination of a spherical space of density...

DANIEL LIEBSKIND
Desert Island Discs

Lauren Sinnott has created a fine line of purses and magical bags, in three-dimensional form, as the most sacred portal of the feminine temple – designed, she says, to honour the Goddess. Her vulvas come in various sizes, shapes and styles, and are machine washable. She even made a double-sided velvet vulva for one recent lesbian wedding ceremony.

"I was in my early 30s when the vulva epiphany occurred," Lauren told me. "I had been a very liberated woman in college and had also by then been introduced to ancient Goddess worship, current Pagan practice and feminist thought. It all struck a chord that had been vibrating since childhood and the whole thing seemed quite natural."

Diva Magazine

During the day, Ms Wade, a photography lecturer at Thames Valley University, carried out a performance piece, washing and hanging on the line baby vests covered in images of the September 11 twin towers explosion.

She said: "Children and babies are part of the future and I wanted to question what the future post September 11 is going to be like for our children and how the events of September 11 have changed the world.

"It is such a pivotal part of history, but I think we will only know the true impact some time in the future. By washing the clothes I was also conveying the idea of protecting our children from the future."

Hampstead & Highgate Express

When he orders fish, he asks his purveyor to pack and transport the fish in the direction in which it was swimming when it was caught. One might easily laugh at this and ask why, but Keller's response would be to counter, why not? Why stress the flesh of the fish unnecessarily, if you don't have to.

ANDREW GUMBEL reviewing The French Laundry Restaurant, California
Independent

Pseuds Corporate

Events provide a platform to develop corporate positioning and inject valuable human contact into the dialogue.

PAUL WEST, md Grayling Face to Face
PR Week

CONTRIBUTORS: Stephen C. Miller, Henry Miller, Mira Bar-Hillel, Susan Tilley, Jeremy Dore, D.E.S. Price, M. Dear.

£10 paid for all entries

IN THE BACK

CASH ON DEMAND

THE national audit office (NAO) report last month on regional grants – state handouts that help private companies create or save jobs – highlighted the number of firms who keep coming back for more taxpayers' cash.

Nearly a third of the grants, the report said, went to companies that had already received handouts. In effect, businesses can hold their employees hostage, demanding a ransom from government – or jobs get chopped. Though the NAO report argued that repeat grants can "run counter to the scheme aim that support should help firms become self-sustaining", it was too polite to name the firms that are welfare dependent. So who are they?

Lord Paul

Caparo, the steel firm owned by Labour donor Lord Paul, is a prime offender. Last December it received an £80,000 grant to preserve engineering jobs in Hartlepool. In December 2001 it got £120,000 to do the same in Dudley. And this was in addition to the £170,000 of grants it received in December 1999 to create jobs in Hartlepool and the £750,000 it got in late 1998 to safeguard jobs in the West Midlands.

The NAO points out that as the grants scheme is not advertised, a small number of firms become very adept at tapping the public purse and "applying for a grant becomes a business skill". Lord Paul, though, knows the grants machinery well: the government put him on the Industrial Development Advisory Board, the DTI committee that advises on larger regional selective assistance grants, in October 1999.

But Caparo is not alone. Car parts maker TRW got £500,000 to preserve aircraft jobs in Birmingham in June 2001 and £995,000 to save car parts jobs in Liverpool in March 2001. TRW Systems Ltd received £500,000 in Sunderland in December 2000 and at the same time TRW Lucas Varity Electric Steering Ltd got £6m in Birmingham.

TRW's aircraft and car part businesses were sold to different firms in 2002, but the car parts business alone claims sales of $10.6bn. And while it persuaded the DTI it was "preserving" and "creating" jobs, it actually axed jobs in the UK in 2001.

Drinks maker Diageo Scotland got £1.9m to preserve jobs in Kirkcaldy in December 2002 and a £1m grant to do the same in East Ayrshire in June 2002. Meanwhile workers at Guinness breweries in Northern Ireland, also owned by Diageo, faced redundancy.

With Lord Paul on the advisory board are two other members whose firms receive substantial grants: Motorola chairman David Brown (Motorola got a £13m grant in Bathgate, Scotland, in December 2000); and HSBC adviser Dr Robert Hawley (HSBC Select was awarded £350,000 to create insurance jobs in Newport in December 2001.

One striking feature of the system is the number of huge and ostensibly profitable firms who ask for welfare. Labour favourite BAA plc got £650,000 to create airport jobs in Glasgow in December 2001 and the TSB group took £1.5m last September to create jobs in Bridgend. Manpower plc got £800,000 for telecoms jobs in South Pembrokeshire in December 2001.

Firms in supposedly dynamic sectors like mobile phones and pharmaceuticals are also well represented in the corporate dole queue. One2One got £3.1m to create telecoms jobs in Greenock in December 2001 and Smithkline Beecham took £2.25m to preserve jobs in North Ayrshire in June 2002. The firm claims current profits of more than £6bn.

Syngenta plc, which got £900,000 to save pesticide jobs in Falkirk in September 2001, currently claims around half a billion pounds half-yearly profits. Eli Lilly got £500,000 to preserve jobs in Liverpool in December 2001, when Lever Faberge got £700,000 to create soap jobs in the Wirral. The latter is part of Unilever, one of the world's largest firms which claims more than £3bn annual profit and employs Labour's Lord Simon.

Procter & Gamble asked for £1,850,000 to create jobs in Newcastle in March 2002 and got it. This year it boasted an increased dividend to shareholders for the 48th consecutive year. Do shareholders know their debt to taxpayers?

Enterprise vulture

TWO years after it should have been wound up, the former South London Training and Enterprise Council (Solotec) continues to pursue three of its low-paid former workers through the courts for absurd amounts of money.

The £400,000 costs claim, due in the high court next month, will likely cost all three women their homes and still not come close to recouping the public money wasted on pursuing this case.

In March 2001 *Eye* 1023 reported the bizarre legal case taken by Solotec against three women – Jane Bonotto, Rabinder Ranu and Carole Hackett – who had worked as self-employed agents of Solotec, getting unemployed people back into jobs and training programmes.

The TEC tried to sue the women for three quarters of a million pounds, claiming that "irregularities" in their paperwork and non-compliance with internal policies added up to breach of contract and fraud (although the case was never taken to criminal trial, only to civil proceedings). The women denied ever falsely submitting claims for commission payments. They accepted that some paperwork was done incorrectly, but say they dealt with the forms in exactly the way they were told to by the TEC.

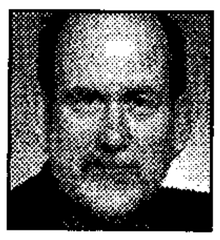
The case was finally settled last year with the women agreeing to pay Solotec a total of £105,000 because they were desperate to end the case and get on with their lives. Nothing was admitted or accepted in the settlement. But the saga didn't end there.

Now the women have been sent a detailed breakdown of costs in the case. Over three years the TEC has run up a legal bill of more than £300,000 (to win £105,000 damages, remember), which it is asking its former employees to stump up. It's unlikely the trio will ever be able to pay, meaning that ultimately taxpayers will fund this utterly illogical legal action.

All other TECs in the country ceased to exist in 2001, being replaced by Learning and Skills Councils. Because of the continuing legal action, Solotec continues to exist under the care of liquidators.

HAWKWATCH:

Michael Ledeen



WHO exactly is Michael Ledeen, the leading hawk pushing for "regime change" in Iran who has secured so many column inches here in Britain?

The *Spectator* gave Ledeen space for a 2,000-word essay on why the allies will have to attack Iran to secure a complete victory in Iraq. The *Mail* and *Telegraph* have both run admiring interviews, highlighting Ledeen's commitment to freeing the Iranians from the mullahs; and the London *Evening Standard* has trumpeted his latest calls for action against Iran. None of them, however, has explained that Ledeen's main claim to fame is that he acted as arms salesman's agent and was involved in shipping rockets to the very Islamic regime he now wants to oust.

Today Ledeen sits on the board of the American Enterprise Institute. Back in 1985 he was a consultant to the US National Security Council and part of the Iran-Contra debacle in which the US secretly sold arms to Iran and used the profits to fund "contra" forces fighting in Nicaragua.

Ledeen worked in the office of Colonel Oliver North and met Iran's principal arms-buyer. He also met Israeli prime minister Shimon Peres to arrange the arms deals (the missiles were flown to Iran via Tel Aviv). Though he didn't fly into Iran with the missiles, he helped arrange the flights and code words.

Ledeen has now formed the Coalition for Democracy in Iran. Feel reassured?

PRISONS

NO HOPE NEW HALL

ON 2 January last year, Victoria Winterburn, a 21-year-old single mother, was remanded to Wakefield's New Hall prison accused of a string of thefts to feed her heroin addiction. It was her first time in prison.

She was admitted to the jail's detox unit, but was given nothing to deal with the effects of drug withdrawal. Despite a call to the jail from her brother, warning of her vulnerability, she was locked in a cell on her own. At sometime between 2am and 4am she made a noose out of her shoelaces and hanged herself. She was found the next morning.

Last week an inquest jury recorded a verdict of misadventure and condemned the jail for neglect. In particular it criticised New Hall for not having a doctor available to prescribe drugs for incoming prisoners suffering drug withdrawal and for not having a nurse available to monitor withdrawing inmates. The jury also criticised the jail for its lack of policy on identifying and protecting those at risk of self-harm. Victoria Winterburn should never have been placed unmonitored in a cell on her own with easily available ligature points.

The jury's warning came too late for Jessica Adams, aged 22. She died in similar fashion in New Hall – using her laces and hanging herself from cell window bars – just days before the inquest verdict. She was the fourth suicide since Ms Winterburn's death.

So far 10 young women have killed themselves in UK jails this year – more than those who perished at their own hands in the whole of last year. Most should not have been in jail in the first place. As a study out last week showed, two thirds of the 4,600 women now in jail suffer some kind of mental disorder, one in seven with a severe psychotic illness.

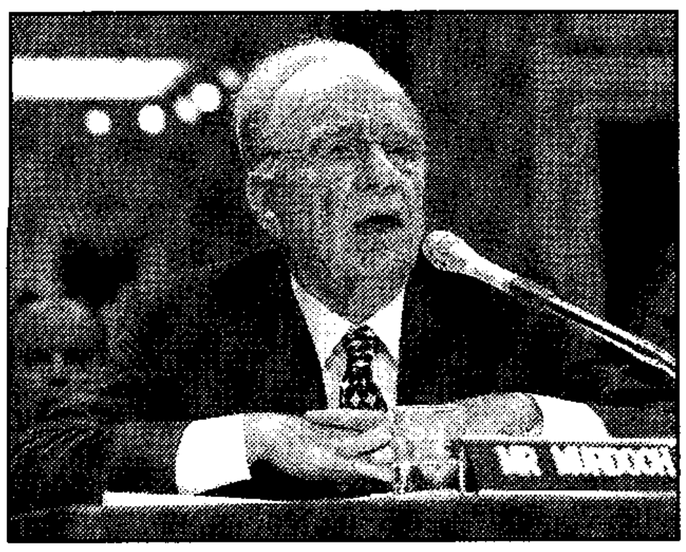
About half are drug dependent, like Victoria Winterburn. One in four will have tried to take their own lives. Half are on prescribed medication like anti-depressants or anti-psychotics. Yet the vast majority are serving short sentences for non-violent crimes. As Juliet Lyons of the Prison Reform Trust said: "So much of their offending is a public health rather than a criminal justice concern. This could be solved not by investing in prisons but by providing mental health care, drug treatment, court diversion and supervision centres across the country."

Under "new" Labour, the women's jail population has virtually doubled and the men's jail population is heading relentlessly upwards too. The jail population is now a staggering 73,400 and the prison service cannot cope. Conditions are reverting to the chaos of pre-Strangeways riots days, with chronic overcrowding, long hours locked in cells, reduced education, work and exercise and even "slopping out" (see last *Eye*). As a result there is a big increase in tension, violence, self-harm and suicide.

Getting away with Murdoch

LABOUR's policy on the media first took shape in luxurious surroundings on Hayman Island off the coast of Australia shortly before "new" Labour was elected in 1997. The keynote speech at a special conference organised by media mogul Rupert Murdoch came from the new Labour leader, Tony Blair. A cordial arrangement between the two was based on the following propositions:

1. That the Murdoch papers in Britain (The *Sun*, *News of the World*, *Times*, *Sunday Times*) would throw their considerable influence behind "new" Labour at election times.



2. Any "new" Labour government would be more than friendly to the aspirations of the Murdoch empire.

The first part of the bargain has been handsomely carried out. (And consider this week's hounding of the BBC by the *Sun* and *Times* while giving Blair, Campbell and Hoon an easy ride.) The second reaches its climax with the communications bill which has just received its royal assent in parliament. It dispenses with a requirement in the fuddy-duddy old communications act passed by the Tories in 1996 banning any media mogul with more than 20 percent of the British newspaper market from owning a terrestrial television channel.

This prevented Murdoch from gobbling up Channel Five. When the Blair government first sought to replace this act, the relevant ministers (Patricia Hewitt at the department of trade and Tessa Jowell at culture) were happy to leave the ban as it stood. But pressure from 10 Downing Street, notably from Blair's media adviser, Ed Richards, changed the bill into something more amenable to Murdoch and chums like former Enron adviser and *Sunday Times* columnist Irwin Selzer, who has unlimited access to Downing Street.

Under pressure from Richards and co, the bill was changed to cut regulation and allow a free rein to Murdoch to buy Channel Five. The new bill commended itself to the newly-appointed chairman of the proposed new regulator Ofcom, Lord Currie. As usual the Labour masses in the House of Commons rolled on their backs and allowed the bill through. In the Lords, however, there were some attempts to hold up the march to Murdoch. Labour peers like Lord Puttnam and Liberal Democrat peers like Lord McNally sought to stiffen the bill with a "citizenship test", forcing Ofcom to ensure that in future the interests of "citizens" should be considered more important than those of commercial concerns.

Lord Currie strongly objected. He complained that if the amendments were passed, Ofcom would be swamped by legal actions on behalf of citizens who felt their interests were being downgraded. Labour ministers heartily agreed. They preferred their original wording. Their obstinacy led to a threat of a revolt in the Commons, where 80 mainly Labour MPs signed an early-day motion backing the Puttman amendment.

On the day of the debate (14 July), Granville Williams, of the Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom, wrote to the *Guardian* urging the dissident MPs to stick to their guns, and speak and vote for the "citizenship" tests to remain in the bill. He need not have bothered. The dissident MPs meekly agreed a form of words that allows Ofcom to "have a primary duty to citizens and consumers, whose interests shall be equal". This form of words is now so vague as to be meaningless. But not a single Labour or Liberal Democrat voted against the compromise.

As for mergers, another amendment, also passed unanimously by MPs of all three parties, allows (but does not oblige) the secretary of state to intervene in a merger "when he or she believes that it will have a damaging effect on plurality". Everything depends on the whim of the secretary of state. If he or she believes for instance (as seems likely) that a terrestrial television channel, say Channel Five, owned and controlled by Murdoch, will not have a damaging effect on plurality, then the merger can go ahead pronto.

What about Ofcom? Will it stop such a merger? One answer is that the most experienced member of Ofcom in this field is none other than Ed Richards, who recently stepped down as Blair's adviser on media matters to take up his new post... at Ofcom!

Storing up trouble

MORE than 85m confidential files containing details of almost everyone in the UK, could end up rotting in cargo containers or even stored halfway across the world under plans to privatise the department of work and pensions' (DWP) file storage.

Gordon Prentice (right), the Labour MP whose Lancashire constituency holds the giant "Nelson" file store, with 48 miles of shelving, has quizzed work minister Desmond Browne in a Westminster Hall debate about the plan.

For now, the bulk of paper records of almost every kind of state support, including pensions, disability living allowance and working families tax credits, are looked after by 900 civil servants at around 60 file store sites around the UK. Around 30 percent of the storage is already contracted out to the private sector.

MPs and the PCS union representing the file store workers have highlighted the peerless speed and efficiency with which the files in the public sector are currently handled, meeting all their targets for providing Jobcentres with files within one, 24 or 48 hours depending on the type of query. Mr Prentice quoted the Surrey disability rights centre as saying: "You found my file in six minutes! Are you on roller skates?"

This compares rather favourably with the service now provided by private contractor Hays, which is using lorry containers to store files without heat or light. Union reps have complained about container doors being left open to the rain for long periods.

Mr Browne said the containers were a short-term solution during building work. He claimed the scheme would save £4m a year in buildings costs alone as files were pulled into some kind of centralised store run by a private contractor.

One consortium of private firms has already told ministers it can do the work which currently costs £30m a year for just £5m. But how? One way would be to charge for access to the files, thus potentially costing government more in the long run. Another would be to sack most of the civil servants who do such an effective job.

The PCS has uncovered information that the government has even considered storing some public files abroad, possibly following the path of call centres based in India where buildings and staff cost less.

In *Eye* 1078 we reported on the contracting out of MoD and police file storage which would see state secrets held by the delivery firm TNT. The decision on who will look after personal information will be made later this year, with the contract starting in mid-2004.

Insurers run for cover

OLIVE RUSHTON, 82, and her husband Tom, 84, have insured their home in Oldham for "more years than we can remember" with Age Concern because they trusted the charity and believed it was concerned about their welfare.

Thus when builders demolishing chimney breasts nextdoor smashed holes through their party wall last December, sending bricks and debris into the Rushtons' hallway, they thought their insurance policy – for building, contents and legal expenses – would cover them. Not so.

A report from loss adjuster Anthony Reid, engaged by Age Concern, found that the "repairs are not necessary as a result of the operation of an 'insured peril' and as such we regret that it would seem that there is no cover under this policy (sic)."

"Insured perils" cover things like lightning, water leakage and falling trees, but not falling bits of wall. For that the couple would have had to pay a premium for added non-specified accidental damage.

The Rushtons were told to pursue the builders themselves. They were contractors brought in by the building's owners, Sellers Engineering in Oldham, and they have so far offered the grand sum of £109 towards the £800 the couple have already paid to repair the wall and redecorate. The solicitor acting for Sellers says £109 is the price the builders say they could have done the work for.

In addition, the couple say a garden pillar and another party wall have also been damaged and water from the neighbouring leaking chimney has penetrated their bedroom. For that they have paid another £500 but the work is only half done and they can afford no more.

Mrs Rushton told the Eye: "We have had the most distressing and worrying time and Age Concern, Oldham, which seems to be run by voluntary workers, don't seem to be interested in our plight. Old people think they are safe with Age Concern, but they aren't and it's all big business."

And she is right. Age Concern's insurance services are with Norwich Union, the country's biggest insurer. And NU – like many other companies – now farms out some of its claims work to none other than our old friend Capita.

A Crapita internal email – relating directly to Norwich Union work – exhorts staff to "continue to repudiate as many cases as you can and keep 'leakage' to a minimum. We are good on both these initiatives."

So, are old people regarded as easy to repudiate? No, says David Ross at Norwich Union, who disassociates NU from the Capita email. "As the country's biggest insurer, we could not operate in this way. Our aim is to settle claims as soon as possible, not repudiate them; and even when there are 'grey areas' we will usually pay rather than not." He said only a small percentage of NU work was placed with Capita and most people deal direct with NU staff as the Rushtons did.

Capita itself said it could not comment on an email it had not seen, but that repudiation was not its policy.

The bad news for the Rushtons is that their policy does not even qualify as a "grey area". The "standard perils" policy, which most pensioners on a tight budget opt for, spells out the perils; and damage caused by careless builders isn't one of them. The good news is that the couple do have legal expenses cover and Age Concern admits it should have pointed that out to the couple at the time their claim was rejected to help them pursue a claim against the building contractors. Age Concern is now pursuing that line on their behalf.

In the Back continues over...

BLOODY SUNDAY

The handwriting's on the wall

THE most senior officer in the British armed forces, the chief of the general staff, Sir Michael Jackson, is likely to be recalled to the Bloody Sunday inquiry to explain how a vital document about the shootings, previously said to have been compiled by another officer, was written in Sir Michael's handwriting.

The story of the authorship of the "Loden shot list" is probably the most mysterious yet to have been uncovered at the inquiry into the killing and wounding of 26 unarmed civilians in Derry in January 1972. But in the general atmosphere of media indifference, brought on by the inquiry's huge delays and expense, the mystery has been overlooked by the few British hacks who remain interested.

Sir Michael Jackson

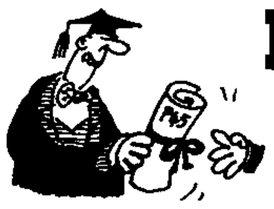
When he gave evidence at the inquiry in June, Col Ted Loden, former commander of the 1 Para support company, was asked about a typewritten document known as the "shot list" and dated 31 January 1972, the day after the shootings. The document set out in some detail the facts of each of the shootings, the positions of the soldiers responsible and their targets. In evidence, Loden confirmed that the document tallied with notes he had made on the evening of the shootings after interviewing all the soldiers involved. He had no idea what happened to his notes.

The "shot list" has been subjected to intense scrutiny at the inquiry and has been exposed (to put it mildly) as dodgy. For instance, some of the trajectories of the bullets it describes manage to pass through brick walls. In many instances, the soldiers' own evidence about where they were and where they fired their shots differs from the document. Even more surprisingly, few of the soldiers could recall being interviewed or briefed by Col Loden on the night of the shootings.

The discrepancies lingered unexplained, and relatively unimportant, until 12 June when counsel to the inquiry, Christopher Clarke, announced that a ministry of defence official called Jeremy Wilson had produced an extraordinary handwritten document. Word for word, the document was the same as the typewritten Loden "shot list". But – *whoops!* – the handwriting was not Loden's. Edwin Glasgow, counsel for General Sir Michael Jackson, confirmed that the handwriting was that of his client. Jackson was Loden's second-in-command in 1 Para during the Bloody Sunday shootings.

Jackson gave evidence to the inquiry in May. He made no reference to any report or document he wrote on the night of the shootings. Which is why the lawyers for the families of the dead Derry civilians are now pressing for the general to be recalled to the inquiry to explain his note. It is hard to see how their demands can be resisted.

High Principals



ONE way for a university to raise cash is to increase the number of students on postgraduate masters courses. They pay higher course fees than PhD students or undergraduates; and if they are from overseas – and thus pay even more – all the better.

Durham University, which had £2m removed from its 2003-4 budget by the higher education funding council, is admitting 1,100 postgrads to study in from October, a significant increase on previous years. Unfortunately there are only 600 university-subsidised beds at Ustinov College, the postgrad college, meaning either the students will have to get *very* friendly or only half the first year will be allowed accommodation. This is likely to be especially tricky for those students with less than a year to go to complete their degree (student lets in the city generally being on one-year contracts).

Moreover, the current postgrads, many of whom were expecting to stay in Ustinov, were only told about the influx in mid-June, leaving little time to find a place to move to when they are evicted in September. Many of the students are away on lengthy field work assignments and are unable to look for places to rent.

Durham's funding crisis is also forcing the closure of the university's prestigious East Asian Studies department, partly thanks to the fact that courses such as Japanese are funded at the same level as French, even though it is far more expensive to teach. The language courses are likely to remain but will no longer be taught in the context of broader expertise on the region.

FOLLOW-UPS... FOLLOW-UPS... FOLLOW-UPS...

■ **MAPELEY STEPS:** After all Sir Nicholas Montagu's stepping around the question of whether the Inland Revenue would have been breaking international trade rules by pulling out of the Mapeley deal (when it realised the company buying the Revenue's buildings was based in a tax haven), a very straight answer comes from the European Commission.

"There are no World Trade Organisation rules governing property transactions with companies based in tax havens," the commission revealed in answer to a question from UK MEP Charles Tannock on the affair. "WTO agreements generally apply to trade in goods and services and not to property transactions... Community law on taxation does not contain any provisions specifically applicable to property transactions carried out between the public authorities of a Member State and a company based in a jurisdiction described as a tax haven."

Not usually known for its snappy answers, the commission seems pretty clear on this matter, flatly contradicting the evidence given to the treasury select committee by Revenue chairman Sir Nick in December 2002. He told the committee it would have been impossible to pull out of the deal as it would have breached EU and WTO rules.

The Office of Government Commerce has since revised its guidelines to make it clear that it would be wise to look at the tax arrangements *before* entering such a deal.

■ **FISH FARMS:** In an attempt to show its more caring side, Dutch-owned fake fish farmer Marine Harvest claims it is spending loads of money restoring wild sea-trout to Scotland's west Highland rivers – currently devastated by disease and pollution from, er, fish farms.

Managing director Dr Graeme Dear insists this is not conscience money: "We have embarked on restocking because we love these animals," he said. But does anybody believe him?

Step forward Prof David Mackay, president of the Scottish Anglers' National Association, allegedly representing 30,000 of his fellow piscators. He said: "With this new spirit of cooperation I believe we are in a better position than we have ever been to get on top of the sea lice problem and restore these fisheries." The professor retired recently as north region director of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, the organisation that gives fish farmers permission to dump toxic chemicals and fish shit from 57 million captive salmon into Scotland's waters.

MAN IN THE EYE:

Anthony Julius

IN MAY 1997, the solicitor Anthony Julius wrote an article for the *Guardian* deploring the greed of corporate fatcats. Although some well-paid executives were willing to give time or money to charity, "it's regrettable that there seem to be few of them around at the moment".

By way of an example, he described the appalling avarice he had witnessed a few years earlier "in the office of one of the Eighties plutocrats – one of the most oversized of them".

Although Julius didn't name him, the monster was in fact Robert Maxwell. But did the sensitive solicitor mention his doubts about Cap'n Bob at the time? Er, no. During the late 1980s Julius collected huge fees in return for bullying and persecuting Tom Bower, who was striving to expose the fat man's "moral failings".

As Bower recalled in *Maxwell: The Final Verdict*, Julius and colleagues "betrayed no hint of doubt about their client's virtues. On the contrary, they pursued his mission with depressing vigour, commitment and pitilessness".

Yet within days of Princess Diana's death, less than four months after the *Grauniad* article, Julius had become founder-chairman of the "Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund", a charity set up to represent the caring, giving spirit of England's Rose. In those early days of Di-mania, money poured in – £20m in public donations, more than £30m in royalties from Elton John's "Candle in the Wind". And which worthy cause was the first recipient of this bounty? Julius's firm Mishcon de Reya, which charged the fund £500,000 for legal advice in the autumn of 1997.

Julius defended the fees, claiming that Mishcon had done the job "at a significant discount". Even so, after the payments were revealed in January 1998, the trustees agreed that future legal work would be put out to tender.

And what a lot of legal work there has been. In April 1998 Julius and his fellow-trustees embarked on a massive lawsuit against the Franklin Mint, purveyor of figurines and other naff souvenirs, which they accused of "trading illegally on the princess's image". It seems unlikely the people's princess would have approved of such litigation: while alive, she had never sued companies which sold Di-related products. It's even less likely that all those children who sent their pocket-money to the fund expected it to be paid to lawyers.

The US lawsuit brought by Julius and the other trustees was thrown out as "frivolous" and "groundless", leaving them with a bill of £4m. Now they are facing a £16m counter-suit from the Franklin Mint – whose owners, Stewart and Lynda Resnick, were goaded beyond endurance when the fund described them as "vultures feeding on the dead". Anyone with a modicum of taste would probably wince at the sight of the unauthorised Diana dolls. Yet a glance at what the Princess of Wales Fund *has* authorised – the use of her signature on tubs of Flora margarine or the licensing of a Princess Beanie Baby – makes the Resnicks' indignation rather more understandable, especially since they had initially offered to donate £2.5m to the princess's favourite charities, a proposal the trustees briskly rejected. The Resnicks have also promised that if they win their forthcoming case they will give all the proceeds (minus lawyers' fees, of course) to charity.

Yet Julius still displays no hint of remorse or embarrassment. When a team of City solicitors was thrashed by a team of vicars on *University Challenge* last month, he was quick to suggest a reason. "Many lawyers have first degrees in law, which means they have done little else since they were 18," he told the *Times*. "That's wrong." By contrast, Julius himself took a degree in English and philosophy and a PhD in T.S. Eliot. As he smugly explained to the *Times*, "Having a broader interest makes you a better lawyer."

You can contact Paul Foot on 020 7287 3183 or the In the Back team on 020 7437 4017

In the City

THE ending of the Howard Davies era at the financial services authority (FSA) sees the handing over of power to what many suspect was always going to be his handpicked successor as chief executive, John Tiner.

Tiner's appointment was unveiled last week to no surprise among many with knowledge of the FSA's inner workings. After all, they ask, would he really have given up a reputed £1m salary at Arthur Andersen two years ago (a lucky move as Andersen imploded soon after, courtesy of Enron) unless he had been promised the top job? Of course, it is always possible Tiner made the sacrifice in order to devote his life to public service with no future reward other than a possible knighthood – like his former boss – from a grateful nation of investors.

"I had hoped the sexism would stop once I got this side of the glass ceiling"

The FSA would have us believe Tiner was promoted from managing director of the consumer, investment and insurance directorate after a rigorous selection process in which he beat off 11 rival candidates, including fellow FSA md Carol Sergeant. According to one City source, the competition was so transparent and above board that all the internal candidates had been interviewed before the post was advertised.

Tiner was also the most likely candidate for chief executive because of his role in running the project to shake-up insurance regulation which is based on his report. He might have stamped off in a huff if not successful leaving the Tiner Project looking somewhat exposed.

But as the reputation of the FSA has been battered and bruised by a series of failings in the very areas of the directorate run by Tiner – consumer, investment and insurance – his appointment is hardly likely to reassure investors that all will now be different and, well despite his promises of a management shake-up.

Tiner's email to staff promising to "revisit the way we are organised, including the various processes we have for decision making" sounds more like consultantspeak than a battle cry to get tough with the bad guys by becoming more proactive and not remaining timorously reactive.

The greatest complaint about the FSA is its refusal to take risks as a regulator for fear of legal counter-attack. It has neither prevented nor cured the major crises it has faced under Howard Davies. Its one regulatory size fits all has made it slow and cumbersome: in the words of one City observer, a "bureaucratic nightmare".

After Tiner's abysmal performances before the treasury select committee over the FSA's failure to prevent the split capital trust scandal, the City regulator is now carrying out a wide-ranging and intensive investigation of all those companies and individuals responsible for costing investors three-figure millions. Something Tiner did not seem to think was necessary or justified last year. Conveniently just ahead of its annual meeting and Tiner's appointment, the financial pages simultaneously sprouted reports of the FSA's new found vigour to find and punish the guilty.

Yet the "splits" scandal developed and exploded while a complacent FSA sat by doing either nothing or too little until too late – a failure defended by an unimpressive Tiner when quizzed by MPs.

Back in October 2001 Tiner told the treasury committee: "There was little evidence that private investors had been mis-sold shares in split trusts." Clearly he had not been reading the acres of newspaper advertisements which promoted "splits" as the type of investment that was so safe it allowed you to sleep at night unlike the baby whose school fees it would provide! Or that "splits" had "as many safety features as the Volvo"! This seductive fiction was pumped out weekly through the 90s. It sucked in up to 50,000 victims. However, according to Tiner "splits" were mainly held by "institutions and wealthy individuals". As if that made the mis-selling acceptable!

In July 2002 Tiner again faced MPs and again tried to downplay the impact of the by then obvious FSA failure. Now the line was that only a "handful" of fund managers had been colluding to keep up the split capital trusts share prices by buying each other's shares. The FSA is currently investigating as many as 12 fund management companies and dozens of individual managers and stockbrokers. It is examining cross-holdings between 120 trusts.

Hauled before the treasury committee once more last October, Tiner angrily denied that the FSA had been warned by regulators in Guernsey that the supposed low risk "splits" could in fact be very high risk indeed.

"The Guernsey regulator denies having given anything to us," Tiner declared.

Summoned back before the committee for a fourth time less than a month later, Tiner had to humiliatingly admit that the FSA had indeed received the Guernsey warning but he – the man in charge of handling a scandal involving maybe £12bn from up to 50,000 investors – had been unaware of the letter's existence!

But then at the October hearing Tiner had admitted to MPs that a £12bn scandal built up from 1995 to 2000, during which the FSA took over as the City regulator, without anyone there paying too much attention. Because the FSA does not regulate investments trusts – that is a matter for the Department of Timidity & Inaction – it took the "nothing to do with me" line that is common where the unregulated card can be played. However, the problem for the asleep-at-the-wheel Davies is that the FSA was responsible for investment trust advertising. And that was at the heart of the "splits" scandal, along with the incestuous dealings between the "magic circle" of fund managers.

The FSA takes the same hands-off line with any unregulated investment sold to British investors, even when the conmen are operating from Britain – as was the case with Imperial Consolidated: bill £200m. It never seems to occur to the FSA that if the investment is unregulated, perhaps it would be safer for British investors if it could not be sold at all!

And so to last week's annual meeting where Sir Howard Davies announced "splits" had become the FSA's "largest enforcement operation yet" with the reassuring news that "there is a serious matter to be investigated". No doubt that will satisfy the thousands of victims, many of whom have lost their savings and were never "wealthy individuals" – or if they were, certainly aren't now.

Not surprisingly the FSA and many among the regulated see Tiner as good news. "He has some degree of sympathy with financial services companies" and "tough but realistic" were two welcoming City comments. Tiner's new boss Callum McCarthy pointed to Tiner's "management track record".

Management, however, is not the issue at the FSA. Enforcement and protection are. As well as the split capital trust scandal, the Equitable Life, precipice bonds, endowment mortgages and with-profits failings have piled up on Tiner's watch. However, the FSA has sent out 180 consultation

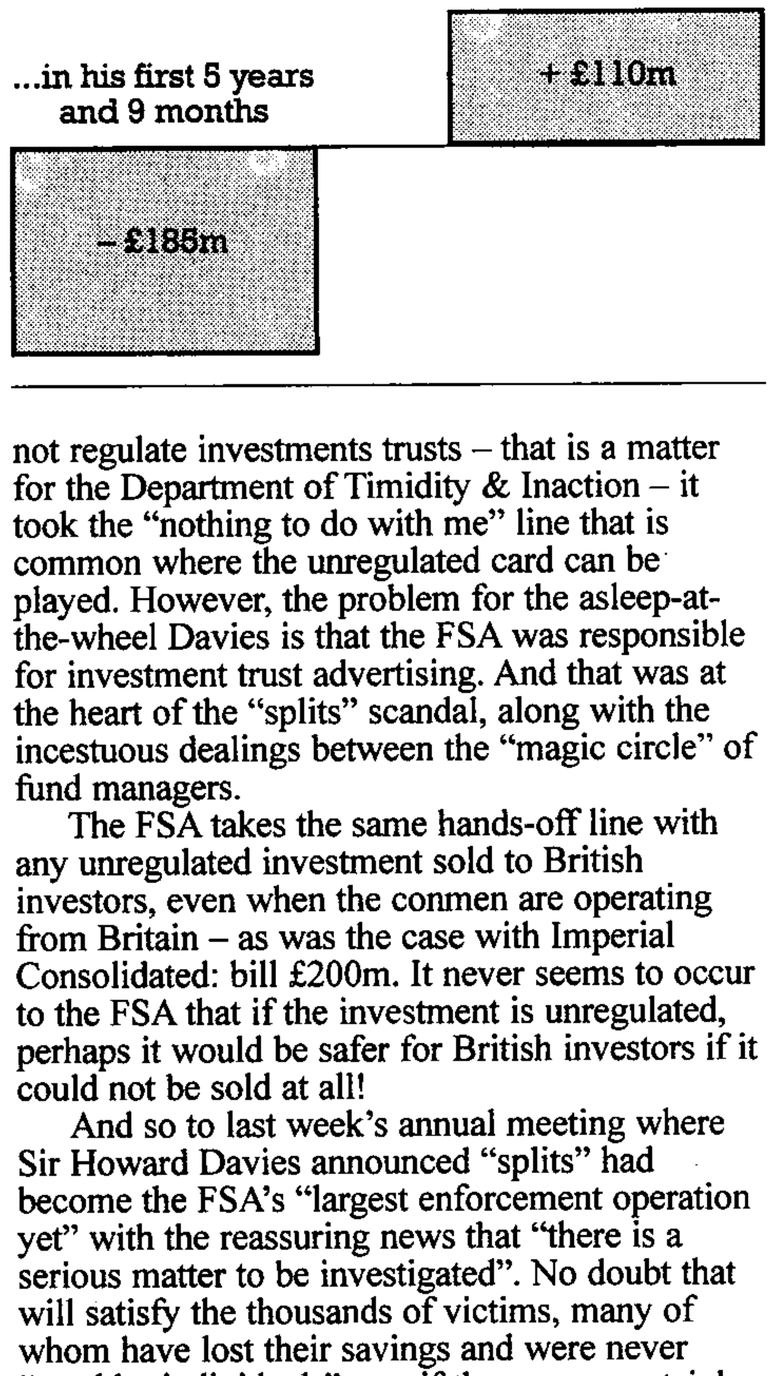
Continues over ☞

Stock Horror

by 'Bruin'

Not before time to Handover

Change in value of WH Smith under chief executive Richard Handover...



DREDGE & RIGG

THE DIRECTORS

SIR-WE'RE CONCERNED ABOUT THE COMPANY'S DIP IN PROFITABILITY. WE DEMAND...
...THAT YOU SACK US AND AWARD YOURSELF A MASSIVE PAY RISE!
NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL A FLEXIBLE WORKFORCE!
145.

"The market's really slow"

documents to help justify its more than £200m a year cost.

In the words of Elvis – a little less conversation, a little more action please.

CHELSEA Village managing director Trevor Birch signed a new five-year contract – which is fully payable if he is sacked by Chelsea – last January. It is no wonder Birch wanted so much job security. For months before there had been speculation that either a bid or a substantial new shareholder was about to arrive at the soccer club to solve its worsening financial crisis. And new shareholders can often mean new management.

In fact Russian saviour Roman Abramovich did not arrive until earlier this month. But it is good to see that chairman Ken Bates felt Birch deserved such a golden parachute even if it is not exactly what good corporate governance is supposed to require. But then corporate governance and Chelsea have rarely if ever been synonymous.

IT IS almost a year since jailed pension pillager Gerald Smith and his associates removed £24.5m from the cash shell Izodia where the Smith crew had become the biggest shareholders.

Since then Smith and his Orb group have failed to return the money supposedly lent to other Orb associates. The Serious Farce Office has been on the case since December. The Jersey courts have fined Smith for contempt for failing to provide information about the movements of the money. Yet still it has not been returned to Izodia.

The most likely reason is that either the Izodia cash has been used to pay other Orb debts and so is gone; or that it has been spirited into supposed investments or long-term deposits from which it cannot easily be demanded or realised and then has been used or stashed elsewhere offshore.

All of which makes one wonder what is taking the SFO so long. It is true theft requires the "intent to permanently deprive"; but how long does Izodia have to wait before it is clear the money is not coming back and Gerald Smith is once again on his way to court?

PLANS for the City of London police fraud squad to move in with the SFO and form the basis for an effective national fraud squad seem to have hit a financial block.

The home office was initially warm to the idea. However, it seems this was on the basis that the estimated £5m a year extra cost would be paid by the City Corporation. However, the City fathers are not that keen. And so the plan seems to be on hold pending a resolution of who exactly is going to pay. There are also concerns that the suggested new headquarters for the SFO may not be suitable for police operations.

'Slicker'

Number crunchings

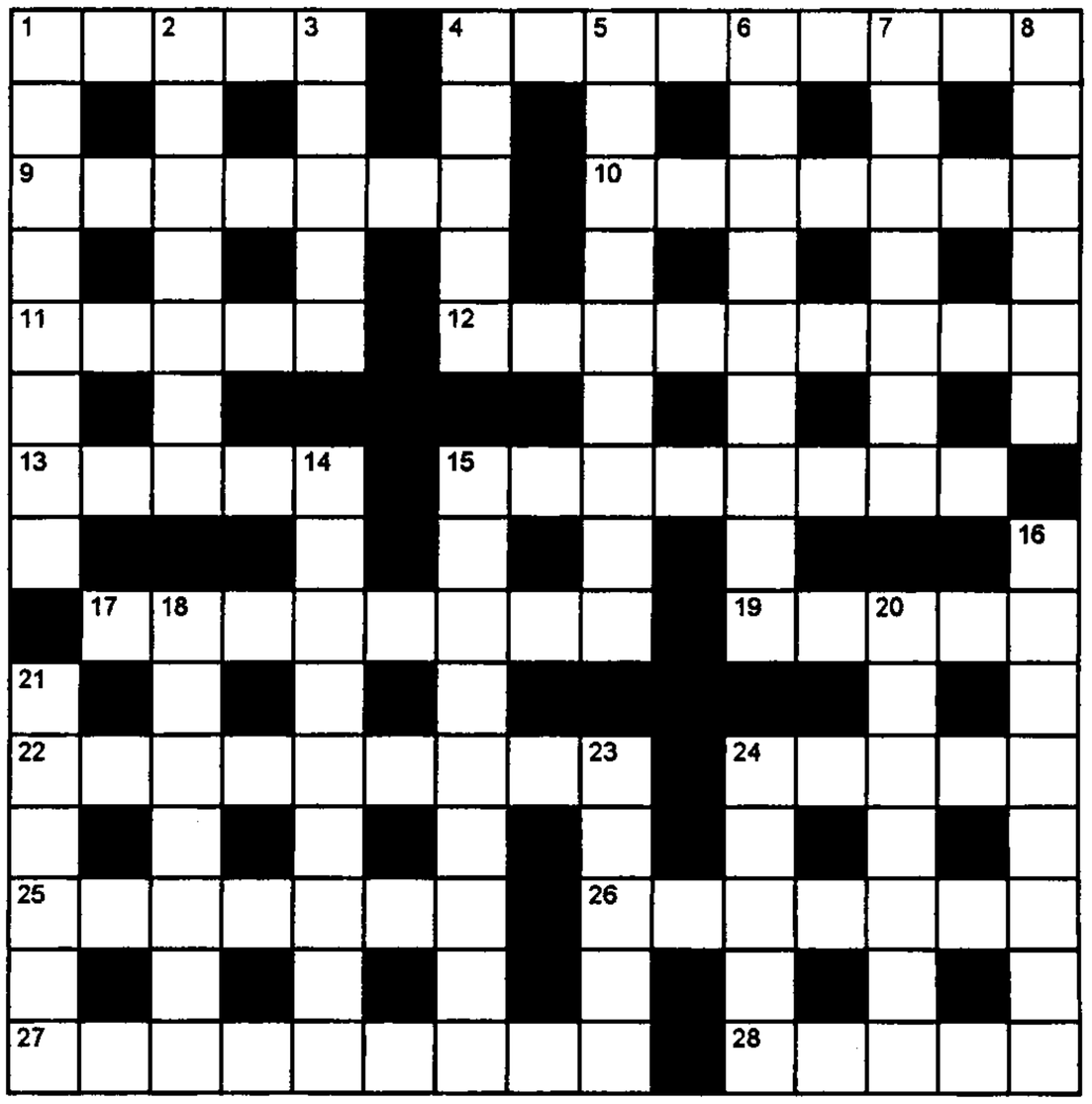
£25m

■ Cash government spent on direct marketing to households last year

■ Extra cash government is putting into recycling and waste disposal schemes

EYE CROSSWORD 240

by Cyclops



£100 prize to first correct solution opened on 1 August 2003.

Entries to 'Crossword', Private Eye, 6 Carlisle Street, London W1D 3BN or via email to crossword@private-eye.co.uk

ACROSS

1 Lusty blokes kicking out Bernard (and charter) from the county (5)
4 After orgasm act like a scrubber and tell all (4,5)
9 Charles' first of the morning: getting off with one's royal consort (7)
10 "Come together – again" (Fry getting tossed outside European place of study) (7)
11 Nuts! Toilet! Pee! Baby's bottom! (5)
12 Briefly clad and exhausted, one's knocked off by Italy's premier (9)
13/15A/17/21 "Employment minister's wife had orgy!" "Nothing in it!" "Resign from power!" (5,4,4,4,4,6)
19 Its fillings not savoury – pointless as a ginger biscuit (5)
22 Refreshing desiccant for repeated pissing of one's pants? (9)
24 'Fabulous author' Archer's main recoiling affectation (5)
25 Mo's "Stupid nit" buttonholing point to Brown (7)
26 Decline owner of round beer belly? (2,2,3)
27 Eye: dead artsy? Perhaps, but not now (9)
28 HRH finally gives one a teasing desire (5)

DOWN

1 Withdraw whip in retaliation (8)
2 It facilitates movement without moving (7)
3 Spread legs and knock off Penny inside? (5)
4 Bit of an arse's drug (5)
5 Without a G Adams, IRA collapses – about right time to celebrate! (5,4)
6 Love sex (not alfresco) so concede (5,2,2)
7 Saying "Ecstasy, Babe" and stuff (7)
8 Tony's aide bungled (it's done away with execution by drowning in France) (6)
14 They'd read *Drunk? – Dry Out!* (9)
15 Bloke getting married in Fergie's outfit (3,6)
16 Traditional pirate's gear gets organ on the beat (3-5)
18 Since getting screwed lives without cuts (7)
20 Po, wee Po, Teletubbies' no. 1 (7)
21 See 13 Across
23 Like some free melons? (e.g. about $2000) (5)
24 Jam jar involved in castration (5)

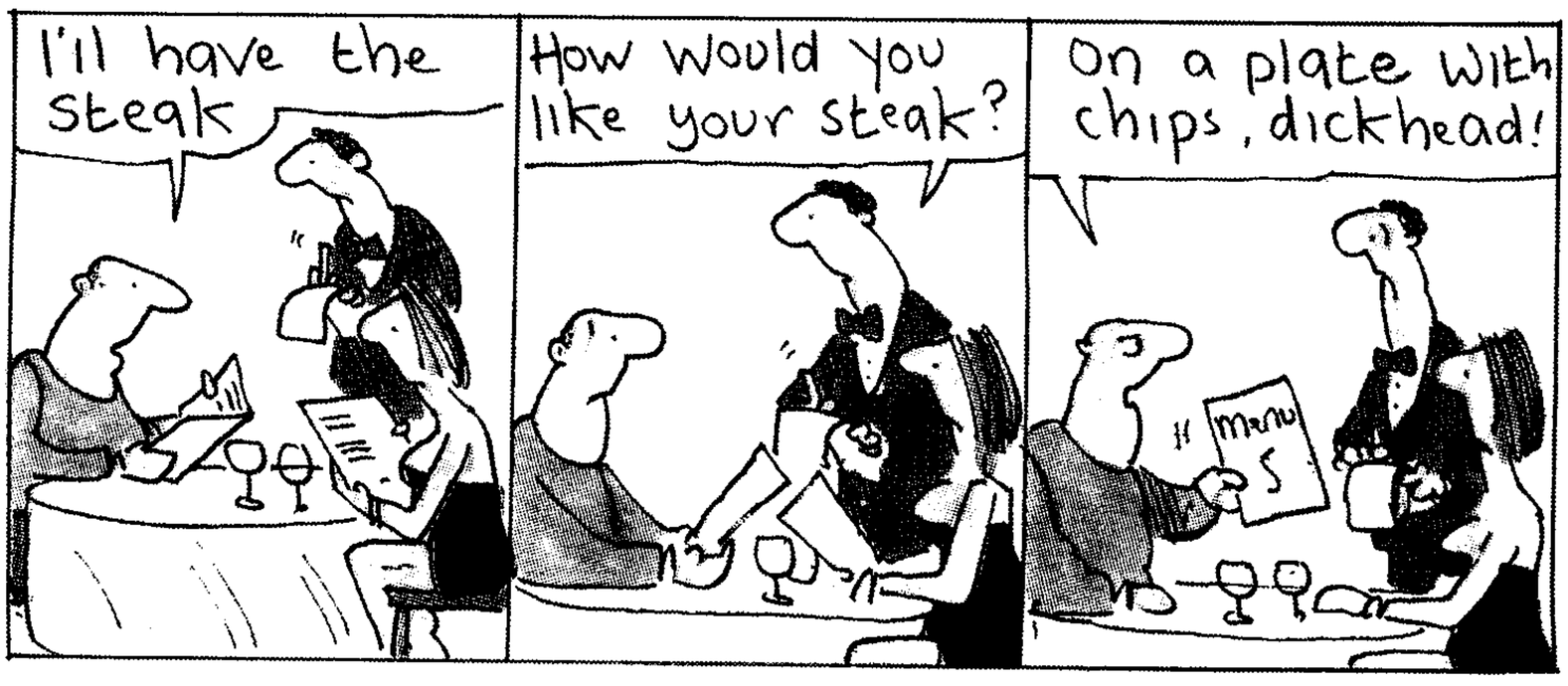
Crossword 239 winner: M. PILLIDGE

ACROSS: 1 Deloused 6 Bogota 9 Gofer 10 Resigned 11/12 Lord Chancellor 13 Psych out 15 Baboon 16 Rebuff 18 Relaxant 20 Cocksucker 22 Hogg 23 Protégés 24 Octal 25 Spines 26 Pisshead.

DOWN: 2 Engross 3 Offed 4 Struck off 5 Dormant 6 Basic 7 Gogglebox 8 Tiepolo 14 Chuck it in 15 Ballrooms 17 Ego trip 18 Rakes up 19 Nigella 21 Urges 22 Hitch.

YOBS

HUSBAND



"A moving but gritty story of willpower and sacrifice... A thoughtful interpretation of a very modern tragedy." EMPIRE

CATE BLANCHETT

VERONICA GUERIN

18 CONTAINS VERY STRONG LANGUAGE, VIOLENCE & DRUG USE

SINGLE MINDED SINGLE HANDED SHE TORMENTED THE TORMENTORS

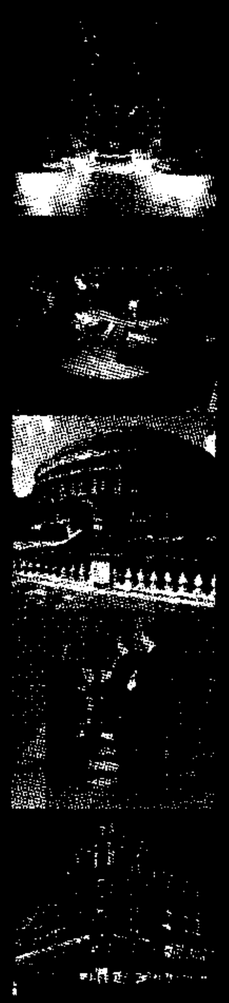
JERRY SCHATZBERG Presents CATE BLANCHETT "VERONICA GUERIN" GERARD McSORLEY

www.thefilmfactory.co.uk

IN CINEMAS NATIONWIDE AUGUST 1

Imperial College London
Conference·link

2003 Conference Season



Discover Central London conferencing from

per person

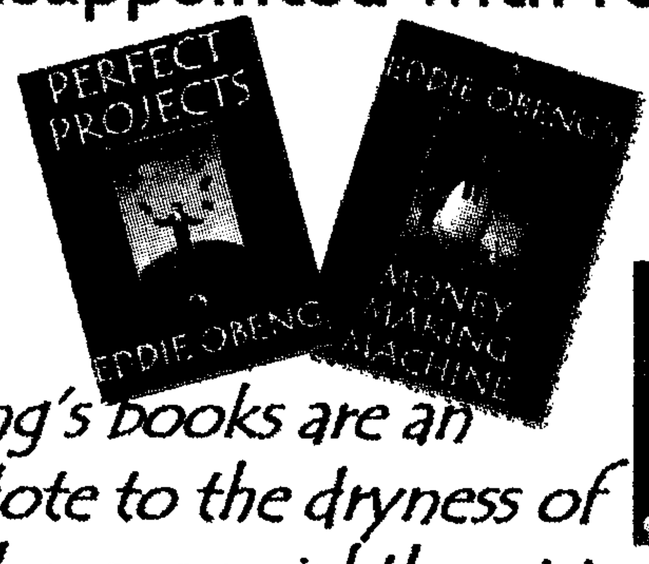
Situated in the heart of London between the museums of South Kensington and the Royal Albert Hall, Imperial College London offers over 200 meeting rooms, 40 lecture theatres, extensive exhibition venues, marquee sites and numerous catering options for an affordable meeting or function. We particularly welcome enquiries about formal dining at 170 Queen's Gate or use of our rooms at evenings or weekends during term-time.

With Bed and Breakfast accommodation available at very affordable rates during the summer and Easter vacations plus a hotel booking service offering discounted rates at a selection of 3 and 4 star hotels, we are able to offer residential conferences in Central London at very competitive rates.

For more information or to request a tour
please call
email
or use our online request form at

NO MORE 'BUSY FOOL!'

Working all hours?
Disappointed with results?



Obeng's books are an antidote to the dryness of much managerial theorising.'
Financial Times

Two New Books plus Application Workshops from Dr. Eddie Obeng

Buy Books NOW from: Amazon.co.uk
Register for workshops NOW at:
www.PentacleTheVBS.com/bookonline.htm
Tel: +44 (0) 1494 678 555
E-Mail:
No.Fool@PentacleTheVBS.com

PENTACLE

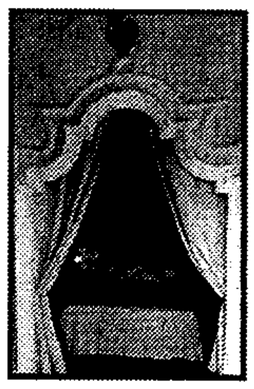
Support Tony

Bliar

Bliar T-Shirts Available At
TEEMARTO.COM

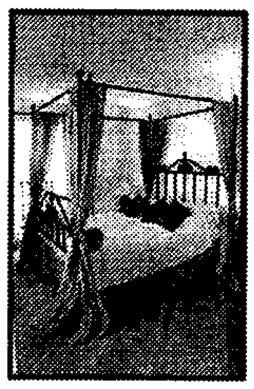
Feel like an adventure?

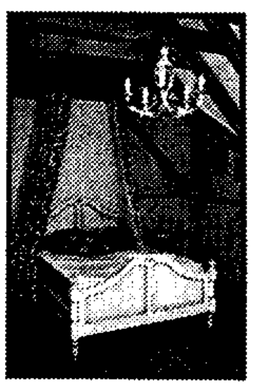
...wake up in a different bed!



Surprise your partner with a romantic stay in one of our holiday houses

Sleep tight...





Euro Relais offers you
a portfolio of over 2,500
holiday houses across Europe

Book online at:

www.eurorelais.co.uk

or ring: 00800 88 088 088.

OM SAI RAM

BESPOKE
SUITS & SHIRTS

Hours 10.00am to 8.00pm (By appointment only.) Please Email, fax or call us in HONG KONG for an appointment with MR.RAJA DASWANI or alternatively call his suite during his visit. If Mr Daswani is unavailable or not checked in when you call, please leave your Tel number and he will be glad to return your call. *APPOINTMENTS CAN ALSO BE TAKEN FOR UK VENUES ON TEL: 01635 574 233*

A suit that measures up
...at a price you can afford

LADIES

1 Wool Suit
1 Silk Blouse

Prices start from
£188

GENTS

1 Super Fine Wool Suit
1 Blazer or Sports Jacket
1 Matching Pair of Slack
2 Silk ties

Prices start from
£188

COME ALONG FOR A FITTING
Raja Daswani will be offering his unique tailoring service at the following venues:

London – Sheraton Park Tower – **August 11-17**
101 Knightsbridge, London SW1 Tel: 020 7235 8050 Fax: 020 7235 8231

London – Novotel London – **August 18-19**
10 Pepys Street, London EC3 Tel: 020 7265 6000 Fax: 020 7265 6060

Manchester – Renaissance Manchester Hotel – **August 22-23**
Blackfriars Street, Manchester M23 2EQ
Tel: 0161 835 2555 Fax: 0161 835 3077

RAJA FASHIONS
34-C Cameron Rd., Ground Floor, Kowloon, Hong Kong
Email: raja@raja-fashions.com
URL: http://www.raja-fashions.com Tel: (852) 2366 7624 Fax: (852) 2369 2807
APPOINTMENTS CAN ALSO BE TAKEN FOR UK VENUES ON TEL: 01635 574 233
Customs duties and VAT not included, free alteration and replacement. No Refunds

£19* FOR ONE YEAR

WHEN YOU SUBSCRIBE TO

PRIVATE EYE

USE OUR CREDIT CARD HOTLINE:
0870 750 1714
(Overseas +44 (0) 1795 414 871)
or online at: www.private-eye.co.uk

Alternatively complete this order form and send with your payment to:
Private Eye Subscriptions, P.O. Box 326, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 8FA

I would like to subscribe to PRIVATE EYE.

Please send Private Eye for one year (26 issues) to:

Title Initial Surname

Address

Postcode

Your daytime telephone no:
(in case we have a query with the order)

Your email:

❑ UK £19.00* ❑ Europe & Eire £27.00 ❑ Rest of World £35.00
Overseas subscribers can also pay by International Money Order

❑ I enclose a Sterling cheque made payable to PRIVATE EYE *or*

❑ Please charge my MasterCard / Visa / Switch (issue no:)

Card number:

SWITCH ONLY

Expiry date:

Signature

N1085

BUY IT NOW IN PAPERBACK

'The funniest man who ever drew breath'
STEPHEN FRY

Tragically I was an Only Twin

The Complete
PETER COOK

'Brilliantly stupid...
Cook's voice echoes off the page'
CRAIG BROWN, *MAIL ON SUNDAY*

arrow books
A division of The Random House Group Ltd.
www.randomhouse.co.uk

GO ON BE A DEVIL.....NEW JOKES

CHOOSE A JOKE - Free Mobile Calls For Life • Your Car's Been Towed • Irate Taxi Controller • Why Is Your Number On My Girlfriend's Mobile? • Invite To Go Drink Testing • Mr Fury
DIAL YOUR VICTIM'S NUMBER
At Home, In The Office Or On Their Mobiles - There Is No Escape
WHEN THEY ANSWER THE JOKE STARTS
YOU CAN HEAR THEM BUT THEY CAN'T HEAR YOU.....
09064 070 219

A unique wedding or anniversary gift...
LUXURY SILK FILLED DUVETS
(or you could always treat yourself!)
0845 4502248
MANDARINA TEXTILES
www.mandarina.co.uk
Conforms to British Standard BS5335, Part 1
Naturally Hypoallergenic

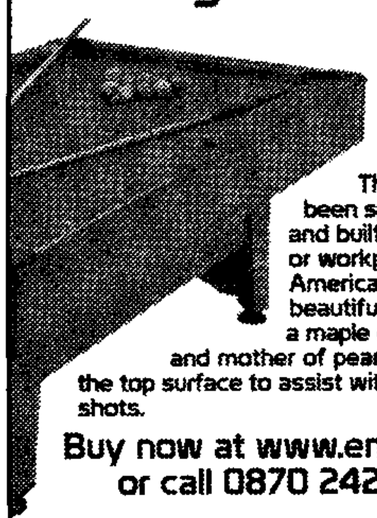
...and suppers too!
Onlylunch
the professional introduction service
HOW PEOPLE LIKE YOU
MEET PEOPLE LIKE YOU
0800 908900
www.onlylunch.co.uk

★ STOCKBROKERS • DOCTORS • ADVERTISING • ACCOUNTANTS • ARCHITECTS ★
MARKETING • DESIGNERS
drawing down *the* moon
PERSONAL INTRODUCTION CONSULTANTS - THE FIRST AND FINEST
"a partner for life...that's where Drawing Down the Moon comes in"
FINANCIAL TIMES
020-7937 6263
www.drawingdownthemoon.co.uk
Head Office: Adam & Eve Mews, Kensington. *City Office:* Cannon Street
24 hours. Member ABTA. Est. 1984
★ EDUCATIONALISTS • WRITERS ★
★ MEDIA COMPANY DIRECTORS • LAWYERS • PR • BANKERS • SCIENTISTS ★

The Blue Angel Club
welcomes you and your friends for a really unforgettable evening. Drink, or dine and dance in luxurious surroundings and be served or entertained by our Angels.
Open Monday to Friday from 6.30pm until late
Membership not required.
17 Little Portland Street, London W1N 5DE Tel: 020 7636 2178

ENJOY

'Prestige' Pool Table



£495

The 'Prestige' has been specially designed and built for the home or workplace. A full-size American pool table beautifully finished with a maple coloured exterior and mother of pearl spot inlays on the top surface to assist with precision angle shots.

Buy now at www.enjoy.co.uk
or call 0870 242 1808

boys toys | office stuff | adult fun | gifts

TEGD GAMES

"a game for consenting adults"

"A RISQUE GAME FOR THOSE WHO ENJOY ADULT HUMOUR"

2 or more players maximum of 6

18+

Please allow 28 days for delivery

INYERENDO-OH!

"a game for consenting adults"

At last! The ultimate game of suggestion & detection.
Inyerendo-oh!o is ***'the'*** wicked adult board game of the century! As one of the country's foremost private dicks you will need all your powers of deduction & whatever rude cunning you possess to solve the mystery of just who shafted Squire Bell.
Inyerendo-oh!o Its saucy, it's rude & down right naughty! How board minded are you? Do you fancy a bit of 'the crack'?
Order now by sending your cheque for ***£29.95 + £2.95*** post & packaging.
Touching End Game Design Ltd
39 High St, Marshfield
WILTS
SN14 8LR Or Tel:07880 690998
Email: sales@tegd-games

NEW LIFE
NEW BUSINESS
NEW ZEALAND

The NZ Government are accepting applications from people with business or management experience to establish in business or self employment in NZ. We assist by identifying businesses for sale, market research, business planning, country and economic information, introductions to Advisors and applying for the business Visa. Franchise Businesses are also available.
No minimum investment amount needed.
For further info:
Phone 020 7371 0213
email :
mathew@amblercollins.com
web: www.amblercollins.com
USA AUSTRALIA NZ UK

BIRTHDAY NEWSPAPERS

Births, Birthdays, Weddings, Christenings, Anniversaries, Retirements. Papers from archives 1642-2003. Sundays from 1915. Quality presentations. Same day dispatch.

REMEMBER WHEN
445 Brighton Road,
Croydon, Surrey CR2 6EU
www.remember-when.co.uk

020 8763 6363
or call FREE 0500 520 000

Ci Looking for somewhere to advertise?
T: 020 7923 5402
communications team

Discounted Worldwide Business Class Flights

Great savings on long haul business flights:

To	London Direct	Our Fare Indirect	You Save
Montreal	£3049	£1771	£1278!
Jeddah	£1928	£924	£1004!
Seychelles	£3790	£1815	£1975!
Rio de Janiero	£4582	£1815	£2767!

Plus special business fares to Australia from £3520.
Many other destinations.
Small print advised when booking but nothing too onerous.
ABTA 28684

T:01753 889 567
gxx@advantagetravel.co.uk
IATA 91211411

GOING OVERSEAS ?!

Cheapest crossings with perfect accommodation

0800-1691772
info@britishferry.com

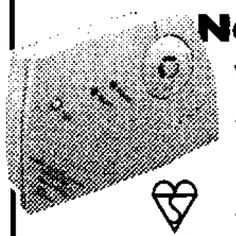
www.britishferry.com

Carbon monoxide kills!

Gasco alarms save lives

GASCO GAS SERVICES

Protect your family, customers and pets *now* with the SF350 superior carbon monoxide alarm.



Now only £34.99

Why choose the SF350?
5 year guarantee
No maintenance
No batteries to change
Continuous testing
Portable for holidays

Call now and have your SF350 within days.
Tel: 01698 37 36 38
Or send cheques to: SF 350 Offer
96 Grange Avenue, Wishaw M12 0AH
Cheques made payable to gasco gas services.
All major credit cards accepted.

DO YOU *REALLY* KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON?

SUSPECT SOMETHING'S GOING ON? FIND OUT - WITHOUT BEING FOUND OUT!
Disloyalty can be dangerous. It's often damaging and invariably hurtful. Commercially, it's usually expensive. You may not like the idea of using 'bugging' equipment but it can heighten your awareness and help you anticipate.
You'll be amazed how we conceal microphones and tiny cameras in the most innocent and ordinary everyday objects.

LORRAINE ELECTRONICS SURVEILLANCE
716 Lea Bridge Road, London E10 6AW.
Fax: 020 8558 1338
Central London Showroom:
59 South Audley Street, W1K 2QN
Web Site: www.lorraine.co.uk
TEL: 020 8558 4226

The Open University

Open up your potential.

Looking for more out of life? Feel undervalued? Believe you have more to offer? If you want to advance in your job, make a career change or simply want to explore a subject you're fascinated by, The Open University is exactly what you're looking for.

You can choose from 199 nine-month courses, 32 diplomas, 25 undergraduate degrees and a range of postgraduate qualifications. We also offer five introductory courses and 20 short courses. Subjects available include: Computing, Business Management, Technology, Modern Languages, Social Sciences, English Law, Arts, Science, Mathematics, Education and Health & Social Welfare.

The Open University is the acknowledged expert in helping people study in their own time. We'll give you a tutor to support you and the chance to meet and exchange ideas with your fellow students. The experience and the sense of achievement you get is unforgettable. It's real value for money *and you can pay by instalments.*

Did you know?

- 70% of OU undergraduate students remain in full-time employment throughout their studies
- 25% of all British MBAs[1] come from the OU
- Over 30,000 employers have sponsored their staff on OU courses
- 150,000 OU students are online from home
- Courses can be studied outside the UK

[1]*Accredited by The Association of MBAs.*

Call the OU 24 hr Hotline quoting ref UGDACP 0870 9000 301
Advisers available 8.30 - 5.00pm
www.open.ac.uk/brochure/

To: The Open University, PO Box 625, Milton Keynes MK7 6YG
Please send me the following prospectus(es):
☐ Undergraduate Courses and Qualifications (CDD04)
☐ Higher Degrees (HD04) **Complete in BLOCK CAPITALS**
Title Initials Surname
Address
Postcode Date of Birth / /
Tel (Day/Evening)
Email Code: UGDACP

CLASSIFIED 020 7837 4566

£2.50 per word (£25 min charge)
Includes entry on PE Website
www.private-eye.co.uk
Border £12 Box Number £12
All charges VAT inclusive

Deadline for next issue: July 28th

You can email your ad to:
private-eye@communicationsteam.com
or Fax: 020 7923 5401

Reply to Box Numbers at address below:
Communications Team,
Exmouth House,
3-11 Pine St,
London
EC1R 0JH

EYE BUYS

44 EYES FOR SALE. Between numbers 442 and 568. 020 7388 4417. Good condition.

FOUR DIFFERENT EYE christmas discs (33 1/3) from 1960's; offers? 0117 904 1183

EYE CHARTER

ADVENTURES WITH ALICE – traditional Thames Sailing Barge near Tower Bridge www.lookingglass charters.com

EYE COLLECT

PLEASURE AND INVESTMENT. Autographs and memorabilia. Call Europe's largest dealer – Freephone 0800 731 0852 or www.frasersautographs.com

OLD FOOTBALL PROGRAMMES wanted. (Pre-1960s) CASH PAID. Telephone: 020 8306 2194. Email: david.sturge@btopenworld.com

FED UP WITH FALLING markets and miserable interest cheques? Private varied collection of exquisite 19/18th century chinese snuff bottles. Enjoy now while investing with medium horizon. Full details: Box 0585.

EYE DINE

DUCK CONFIT & FOIE GRAS from S.W. France at everyday prices. Confit Direct 01938 553478 – www.confitdirect.co.uk

EYE DRINK

VINTAGE GAILLAC red wine 1993-99. Devigne Wines 01938 553478 – www.devignewines.co.uk

MALT WHISKY – learn the language. download a tutorial – tutorial www.whiskytutor.com

EYE DETECT

JAMES BLACK (Privateeye). No1 , tracing, torts, lots-more. Jamexblack @yahoo.co.uk. Tel 0121 247 2600

LINK INVESTIGATIONS – Private And Commercial Investigators Tracing, Surveillance, Staff Vetting, Matrimonial, Debugging, genealogy, house checks, DNA checks etc. Tel: 01306 880707 Fax: 01306 888077 E-mail: info@linkinvestigations.co.uk Web Site: www.linkinvestigations.co.uk

EYE FINANCE

GUARANTEED SPANISH BANK accounts – no credit checks, no visits. With cheque book and credit cards. 01299 250464.

GROUND FLOOR BUSINESS opportunity - See for yourself. chaos-uk.com/art/opportunities.

MOST INVESTMENT managers support fat cat paydeals. To find ones that don't, contact robin@towersoftaunton.co.uk 01823 423418 FSA regulated.

INVESTMENT ANGEL and business mentor for exciting new business idea. evewestbrook@hotmail.com

EYE EARN

www.iwantmorethanthis.com – high income from home. 0151 728 9435.

GOT A PC? Great business opportunity, no products involved. www.travelincome.biz

EYE JOIN

END THE ROYAL FARCE! It's time to elect our next head of state – www.republic.org.uk – REPUBLIC (P) PO Box 34851, London W8 5YA.

EYE HELP

I CALLED SOMEONE ELSE - I couldn't remember your number! Sound familiar? Call Cinergi Telecom on 08450 644 446 www.cinergi.co.uk

ANTIQUES RESTORED by people who know how – www.lawrencebrass.com

JAMES MOVES YOUR possessions. Household / office. Boxes / storage available. 020 8208 1497.

LET DOWN by Sue, Grabbit and Runne? Don't let them get away with it. Professional negligence claims on a no win no fee basis. Freephone 08000523620 or visit www.proneg.co.uk

SPEECHWRITING BY BRITAINS LEADING PROFESSIONAL. Laughter fully guaranteed! Corporate, Social, Political. Strictly confidential. Visa /Mastercard. Call MITCH MURRAY – 01624 622660.

ACCOMMODATION ADDRESS private, discreet, confidential mail/message-holding service, REGENT STREET. Established 1979. 020 7580 4242. E-mail: enquiry@hold-everything.com – www.hold-everything.com

EYE RAIL – TRAIN INFORMATION (24hrs). UK timetables, fares, delays, cancellations. JOURNEYCALL 09065 500 000. The Stables, Fettercairn, Aberdeenshire AB30 1UE. Calls £1/min

FACELIFT YOUR KITCHEN WITH GRANITE. 6 linear metres of modular granite worktop from only £499. No need for templating. Telephone: 07747 112188, Fax 01329 832704 or e-mail: enquiries@q-marketing.org

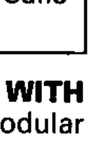
PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY CLAIMS. Lost out due to bad advice? Why don't you sue your adviser? Contact GORVINS SOLICITORS and we'll do it for you. FREEPHONE 0800 214531 or E-mail enquiries@gorvins.com

SORT IT! Obsessive-compulsive organises files, archives, libraries. Business or personal, computer or paper. Free quote. 07771 562863 – sorted@meister.com

EYE HEAR

JUKEBOX PARTY HIRE. CDs and/or 7" vinyl. Including ROCKOLA BUBBLER. £140+ delivered. 020 8318 2852.

EYE LEARN



LEARN HYPNOSIS, gain supreme confidence, financial wealth, free prospectus. 0121 624 2134

EYE FLY

FLIGHT OPTIONS.(Hotel, cruise & Car Hire) ATOL 3793 PROTECTED. Phone or Fax Henry Rogers – 01432 850722

DOES YOUR TRAVEL AGENT KNOW THEIR ARSOLI FROM THE ELBERT? Unique service: we try providing what you want! 01423 867 226, ksales@ryedaletravel.co.uk, ABTA 28716

SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT – Private Air Charter. Personal, professional, competitive service. Compare us to the others! +44 117 9297739 – www.Europe-air.com

EYE GO OUT

13THC MANOR Houseparties/reunions. Sleeps 24. Tennis/Swimming. Services as required. Idyllic setting Somerset/Devon border. Tel 0870 752 4501. www.gerbestonemanor.com

EYE HOMES

CYPRUS PROPERTY for sale. www.cyprussunproperties.com Website updated weekly 003531 235 2195

HEART OF ISLINGTON. Sunny studio flat in mid-Georgian house on one of N1's best streets. Small but perfectly adorned. Share of freehold. £145,000. Tel: 0207 729 1696, 07710 760699 or 07730 944763.

EYE LOVE

LITERATE PROFESSIONAL, 40 years, WLTM arty, slim, curvy woman, 25-35y. Ldn/Mids/Nth. Email: cah0831@yahoo.co.uk

MASTERFUL, HANDSOME MALE, 41, seeks under 30 female for fun and mutual pleasure. London/south east. summertime@easy.com

SHORT FAT CHARMLESS ugly liar (M, 47) seeks perceptive attached fanciable lady (40-50?) For mutual enjoyment of art gardens food wine and each other. Box 0884

FANCIABLE FEMALE, 36, black with favourable attributes easy on the eye, love of dogs, travel, motorbikes and the countryside with affectionate disposition, seeks lifetime partner (marriage) who is very tall (6ft and over) well balanced with no previous marriages or children. 30-45, who is spontaneous, unconventional, generous in personality with an implausible combination of wit, intellect and charm, to share funny and profound moments. No ginger or bald men – marieharteha@hotmail.com or Box 2683.

HAPPY RETIRED FAIR LADY living in Spain (UK 3 months). W.L.T.M cultured, solvent, caring, gentlemen. South Bucks area for mutually beneficial relationship. Photo please. Box 1785

ATTRACTIVE, KIND, generous, international businessman, genuine nice guy and good company, young and fit 42, seeks exclusive paramour. Gerryger8@hotmail.com

LAST FLING, tall, slim, man, 60's wltm saucy, sensual, adventurous woman for fun times. Som/Devon. Box 1085

OLD FART, LATE FIFTIES, unsmelly and with some energy left, dreams of solace with slightly younger tolerant lady. No commitments other than work, areas central and south-west London. For details contact Box 0285.

TRAINEE LAWYER, F, 28, quiet but intelligent, fan of ER, WLTM unattached London-based doctor (I'm healthy!).Email:medicalattentionrequired @hotmail.com

ATTRACTIVE, SLIM, NICE build Indian male, 30, interested in meeting with ladies looking for exploration and teasing fun. Age, looks, size not important, shy and mature particularly welcome. Box 0485.

SLIM WOMAN 30-70, Bach lover, flexible boundaries, sought by successful architect 49. Bespectacled bookish types particularly welcome. A69312197@hotmail.com. Box 0385.

WINDSOR WOMAN wishes to meet witty wise wonderful! womanless chap 50+. solitaire308@myrealbox.com

UNATTACHED WOMAN SOUGHT by warm, sensitive, articulate male, open marriage, retired, London/S.E. - for enduring relationship. Enjoys arts, conversation, wining/dining. Box 0785

WARM, affectionate, humorous female 39, seeks long lost other half. Box 0885.

WOMAN, 50, attached, attractive, seeks active, successful male companion/lover. Must be free some weekends and holidays.northlondonwoman2003 @yahoo.co.uk.

HANDSOME MALE, 40, who likes to take control, seeks submissive female with the usual fantasies. London/South. timeandword@easy.com

GENUINE AND GORGEOUS good guy, a renaissance man, seeks buxom beauty under 45 who is warm, uncomplicated and tactile, for long term relationship. SW London. Photo please. Box 0685.

TALL, DARK, HANDSOME American business executive seeks tall, slim, beautiful, non-smoking lady aged about 35 with sensuous nature, vivid imagination and few inhibitions. Please reply, preferably with photo, to mutualinterview@aol.com. I will reciprocate.

MY DESIRABLE, SENSUOUS, adorable, adventurous mistress wants two men in her bed. Box 0985.

SENSUAL PROFESSIONAL MALE (50's, attached) seeks imaginative dainty female for light hearted liasons and romantic interludes, London/South East. Box 1085.

EXHIBITIONIST? If you are female and would like to take instruction from an appreciative 50s male, London based, then please reply. Box 1185.

SWISS PROFESSIONAL LADY 49 WLTM educated Brit for romance anywhere on earth. Box 1285.

WITTY, ARTY, SPARKY male, loyal, loving, young 55, WLTM, gentle (sparky?) F to love, who is beautiful inside and out, 30-55, any race. Box 1385.

YOUTHFUL FEMALE, 60, n/s, caring, wltm soulmate, n/s, healthy, affectionate, educated and sporty 59-69 man. Box 1485.

BLONDE SIZE 8. Curvacious, bubbly and educated 23 year old actress seeks charming and kind sugar daddy to have fun with. Box 1585.

BI MALE organising international Bi private parties. Po Box 45510, London NW1 8WT.

ATTRACTIVE OR VERY Slim, 28yr female. iwltm@yahoo.co.uk

AMATEUR MUSICIAN. Cambs 50 mins North King X, seeks F25-35 view to love and children in village setting. Photo, Long letter ensures response. Box 1885.

TEENAGER IN THE FIFTIES? Bright, funny woman who remembers, seeks man who does too. Photo? wendy@wendymcmullan.co.uk

CREATIVE WOMAN, gentle nature, vivacious character, strawberry blonde 33 seeks humorous kind honest man 35ish plus for fun and good company. Number 079741742622

EYE NEED

SEEKING FUNDING to recommence medical studies. Halifax Sc: 11-13-28, Acc: 00151486.

NEEDED 2 LAPTOPS in working order (Ex-company?) for language school in Ukraine for September. Email: priscr@aol.com

EX-SERVICEMAN needs £5,000 to clear debts, start own publishing business. Barclays 20-42-58/20861545. Thank You.

YOUNG AUSTRALIAN/BRITISH couple need £5000 help to start new life. Woolwich 10-80-12 13701770.

DISEASE, DEBTS and depression any donations gratefully received. Lloyds/TSB 77-62-01 30548968.02

DENTIST? I NEED your help! Poor young lad in need of 'serious' cosmetic dentistry. Please help give me my smile back! In London or the south-east area. e-mail: sking10@hotmail .com

MY INVENTION has huge market potential in leisure/construction. Seek investors for patent/market launch. Your email receives my business plan! morrisonhugh@yahoo.co.uk

£3MILLION TWO YEAR VENTURE low risk high return. hornbeck@ poisondwarfproductions.com

ANY DONATIONS ACCEPTED to start a new life with the girl of my dreams. 09-01-26 41530118

OUT OF DEBT, out of danger, please help. Account Abbey National S/C 09-01-26 A/C 50906458

TEN DAYS TO SAVE HOME. Please help. Natwest 60-03-25 58733396.

DESPERATE MUM needs £4k to prevent eviction. Please help. HSBC 40-44-34 ACC 61259784.

JOBLESS FEMALE + debt = depression. Please help. Nationwide: 33333334 S/C 07-00-93 A/C 342954278

SCARS. NEED £650 towards facial surgery. Help appreciated. Abbey National Sc:090000 Acc: 00050005 X6934659MIL

£30,000 DEBT, no benefit despite serious ME. Badly need help. First Direct 70823287 40-47-84

SNOW WHITE BUT DRIFTED - now need £10k to live happily ever after. Nationwide 07-01-16 41252034

EYE READ

FREE BOOKSEARCH – No Purchase Obligation Twiggers Booksearch – 0208 878 8644. booksearch@twiggers.com

PUBLICATION OF THE YEAR 2003 nominee – 'In The Buff'. Erotic Literature magazine & fantasy writing service. 8 issues just £34.95. Ffi: 01227 762500 www.inthebuffmag.com

"BRAIN DEAD ECONOMICS" Free chapter. www.busypen.com

EYE SAY

A TYPICAL ASYLUM SEEKER www.dradoko.com

THE POOR IN YORK. We don't use force. We price them out. www.yorkexilesthepoor.org.uk

WE'RE BACK www.nhs-exposed.com THE TRUTH BEHIND THE WHITE COAT.

SEEBOHM! YORK now has the answer. It's called planning. www.yorkexilesthepoor .org.uk

PUBLIC CONSULTATION IN YORK. A few affluent old nimbys collect together. www.yorkexilesthepoor.org.uk

FROM THE LEAFY SUBURBS: Straight A's but dim? arestudentsmiddleclasswankers.org.uk

WELL-EDUCATED, caring and middle-class but guardianreadersrobthepoor .org.uk

QUIZ: "WE NEED TO [build] an education system where people learn to enjoy their minds as opposed to constrain their minds." itmustbeajoke. universitiesandinnovation.org.uk

WMDS FOUND At Stonehenge. Commission only adman wanted urgently. www.buggerbognor.org

MAKE A DIFFERENCE. Could you befriend a death row prisoner? Human Writes offers them non-judgemental friendship through letter writing. For details of this humanitarian non-profit organisation send an SEA: Human Writes, 343a Carlton Hill, Carlton, Nottingham, NG4 1JE

SHE was her.

EYE NOVELTIES

GIFTS FOR THE REDHEAD IN YOUR LIFE – www.redandproud.com – Tel: 01844 274635.

"WHAT A BRILLIANT SITE!" Shop for fun at www.gizmoandwidget.com

TAKING THE PITH? Sexy, sassy, sensationally stylish! The Sunhat for this season! www.kouloura.com/pith/

PERSONALISED CHAMPAGNE your unique message printed on the label delivered NEXTDAY nationwide £35 0800 583 8000 – www.nextdaychampagne.co.uk

A 'TITLE' PLUS LAND for only £40.00. Oh yes! www.scottishhighlandtitles.co.uk

"BRILLIANT!!" The King Of Wok 'n' Roll. Thangyuveramuch. www. chineseelvis.com

"MY GIRLFRIEND LOVES THAT SEMEN MUG - everyone she works with is repulsed by it." 020 8527 2513 - www.poisonmugs.co.uk

BODY PARTS CAST in plaster by experienced artisan. London. Call Aaron for details 020 7690 6356.

WWW.TONYBLIAR.ORG - shock the world - amuse your friends

TITLES – LORD, LADY etc. Tel/Fax 0800 652 6641. www.elitetitles.co.uk

SPECIAL OCCASION? click on to www.name-your-own-rose.com for something special.

ANDY WARHOL-STYLE Personalised Portraits – "The Ideal Gift" – www.justlikeandy.com

VOTED BY WHICH MAGAZINE best car gadget. www.curryhook.co.uk

THE ULTIMATE COMPLIMENT. Express your love and admiration on DVD. Make a film about your or your loved ones life. Shot by professional TV crew and copied to dvd. 020 7419 9550 or torquil@ttvpictures.tv

EROTICA FOR DISCERNING ADULTS – Award winning videos and DVDs – hand picked titles – and the world's best sex toys – read the reviews and test results before you buy. Fast, secure and discreet service. Over 18s only. Available from www.blissbox.com retailers of the very best erotica and sex toys www.blissbox.com

www.thefireworkshop.org Shows you which display to have at your party/event/function or tel/fax 01322 866 121

EYE MOVE

FURNITURE LORRY returning to Ireland weekly. Space available. Ph 02890 838111. Anytime.

MOVING STUFF. Transit couriers and light removals professional, insured. 020 7622 0511.

EYE SELL

OLD PERSIAN RUGS – mostly £100 - £3000. Shed not shop – telephone first. DESMOND NORTH, East Peckham, Kent. 01622 871353.

www.housecontents4sale.co.uk House and Contents for sale. Everything must go.

WOBBLY TOWER? Real furniture to sylishly store your CDs, Videos, DVDs, LPs etc. 01295-760017 – www.john-austin-furniture.com

RUSSIAN WATCHES catalogue available. Tel (0115) 9827741. www.russianwatches.co.uk

PROMOTE... YOUR PRODUCT... YOUR BUSINESS... YOURSELF with full colour postcards at competitive prices. For sample pack phone 020 7737 7766 or Email: cardencounters@btclick.com

SAVE 000S on brand new cars - most manufacturers, cheap finance available. www.marmaladecars.com

NEED A NEW HI-FI? For anything from DVD to Minidisc, surround sound to CD – nip down to RICHER SOUNDS and pick up the lowest-priced gear in the UK... GUARANTEED! For a free bargain-packed catalogue, call 0845 1 300 200.

MEMORABLE PHONE NUMBERS! – Increase your sales and grow your business. Cinergi Telecom. 08450 644 446 www.cinergi.co.uk

FLEA FREE FRIENDS, ideal for those in Sheltered Accommodation or housebound. The Comfy Cats Company 100% faux fur replica cat. £19.50 p&p. www.comfy-cats.co.uk or 01935 389533

GET YOUR OWN Emergency Pack for home and office. www.survivalbox.co.uk

EYE TECH

EXCELLENT COMPUTER programmer seeks employment in the West Midlands or freelance work farther afield. Friendly, innovative and conscientious. More details: www.technospective.co.uk

COMPUTER TROUBLE? let a genuine PC expert help you with advice, installation, setup, programming and trouble-shooting – and save yourself some big headaches. Call TOBY on 020 7229 3001 for friendly, professional advice.

8MM CINE TO VIDEO, DVD, CD or the Web. Proper telecine conversion, not a filmed botch job. www.video2cd.co.uk/pe We do Video to DVD too. 01438-220607.

MINUTE (2CM2!!) 'wireless' colour CCTV camera. Transmits video/ audio – home/office TV. Imagine the possibilities? nanocam@ btconnect.com

OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE (OSS). www.openopen.org Email help pe@openopen.co.uk

SMS TEXT MARKETING works! text 077 66 40 41 42 with the word "eye" to receive info. Or visit http://sms. a-q.co.uk

UPDATE AND EDIT your website yourself! Avoid consultant's fees. www.rolywalter.com or call 07812 079 132

U-TURN MARKETING - Register at http://misspenny.freestoreclub.com or email: jrfsc@myrealbox.com

EYE WANT

DOCUMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHER seeks attractive sexy couples and exhibitionists, willing to participate in photographic book project, which will destroy the myth that Brits are sexually boring. Serious replies and photo please to Box Number 1685.

THE LOAN OF A CENTRAL PLACE to revitalise political debate, civic involvement. politicalplace@hotmail. com

WIN N.DORSET FOR LIB DEMS. Constituency organiser required, liberal values, Campaigning essential, desktop publishing, MSDOS useful. £12,000pa plus accommodation. Contact G.Tapper 01747 852872

RESEARCHER REQUIRED with keen interest in football for joint venture application. markdaniels58 @hotmail.com

FANCY TURNING A FAST BUCK selling a hilarious, anti-nanny-state novelty to everyone down the pub? Email fsbpromotions@aol.com for details.

www.brownpaper.co.uk – adult toys, sexy wear and naughties!

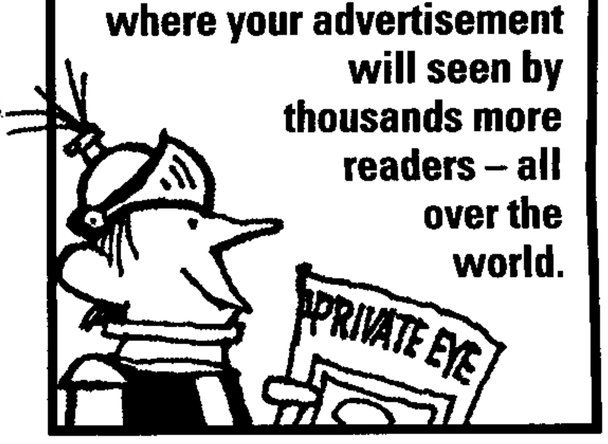
EYE ESCAPE

PROVENCE (NEAR UZES). Magnificent estate, 4-bedroom house, 3-bedroom house, 1-2 bedroom cottage, 1-bedroom apartment, 2 swimming pools. Exquisite setting, location, Views, tranquility, lavender, etc. Availability from Aug 23rd. Tel. 00.33.4.66.79.09.84 or e-mail: obrien.saint.castor@wanadoo.fr

NOW ALL CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS ARE REPEATED ON PRIVATE EYE MAGAZINE'S WEB-SITE

www.private-eye.co.uk

where your advertisement will seen by thousands more readers – all over the world.



TREK IN AMERICA and have an adventure – www.suntrek.com tel: 0845 330 3730

CORNWALL, ST IVES, 2 bed apartment, 150 yards Sandy beach and toe path. September 7 nights from £299. www.stives1st.co.uk 01225 484838

PRAGUE APARTMENTS. Romantic or cultural breaks. Stag, Hen, cheap beer weekends! www.praguetravel.us

WINDSOR HOLIDAY FLATS. 2-8 Persons. Blackpool (Nr. Tower). Phone 01253 342 293.

OUR RURAL EDEN. Det house letting August sleeps 5. £600pw. N/S. NrTruro 01872 223131 look www.elevatingimagery.co.uk

EUROPEAN RAIL TICKET SPECIALISTS. Traxaway Travel. www.traxaway.com 020 8492 3671

BEACH HOLIDAYS BORING? Chamonix-Mont-Blanc climbing courses. www.icicle-mountaineering.ltd.uk, 07980 310 253.

MAJORCAN PROPERTIES, From cheap holiday apartments to fantasy homes of unrivalled luxury. Get more Euros for your pound whilst you can.Tel: 00 34 660 980 556 www.cjbestard.com

WHITE WATER RAFTING, multi activity breaks and real ale! www.activitypubs.co.uk

TREK IN AMERICA and have an adventure – www.suntrek.com tel: 0845 330 3730

COUNTRY HOUSE STYLE in the heart of the breathtaking Malvern Hills. Restaurant of The Year Award – Birmingham Post & Evening Mail Group 3 Stars, 2 Food Rosettes, Michelin, Egon Ronay, A.A. Courtesy & Care Award One of England's Best Loved Hotels – Indulge yourself, book a gourmet break now! from £75.00pppn. 2+nts. Colwall Park, Hotel, Bar & Restaurant, Colwall, Malvern, Worcs.WR13 6QG Tel: 01684 540 000 Fax: 01684 540 847 Web: www.colwall.com

GREECE – CYCLADES ISLANDS. Mykonos (direct flights), Paros, Naxos, Ios, Santorini – plus a dozen quiet ones. SIMPLY SPECIAL. Simply Simon Holidays. ATOL 2578, 020 7373 1933.

WILDWIND SEX, sun, sea, sand, surf, sailing OK no surf! The BEST watersports holidays. ATOL 2751. RYA level 5. Brochure Tel 01920 484516 www.wildwind.co.uk

THE BEST VILLA IN FLORIDA – Allegedly. Beautiful large villa 10 mins from Disney, 20 mins from airport, sleeps 10, own private pool, overlooking lake. From £500-00 pw. 0161 775 7676 or www.sunridgevilla.co.uk

He introduced her to his bit on the side...

The finest Mustards, Chutneys and Relishes, from Tracklements.

For details of your nearest stockist visit our website or call our freephone number: 0800 731 3229
www.tracklements.co.uk
The Dairy Farm, Sherston, Wiltshire, SN16 0NX

Feeling off colour? Have your waters turned green? Then, don't make an appointment with your G.P. Use Floatron.

A proven success worldwide, Floatron will prevent your pool and pond water turning green, minimise maintenance to around ten minutes each week, and save you 80% on chemical costs.

Floatron is the only solar powered portable pool and pond purifier that's the size of a Frisbee and comes with a two-year warranty. It costs nothing to fit and works well with a pool cover.

So, if your pool keeps going green, you don't swim much and when you do, your eyes sting, your swimming clothes are faded and your hair is damaged, and when you get back from holiday, you have to start again, **Floatron is the answer.**

These genuine UK testimonials are available on request.

We wondered whether it would work in England. It does. It's great.
No more burning eyes, no more showering after bathing, lots more happy friends!

Major saving in chlorine usage. Great invention.
No shock treatments, less cost and lovely sparkling water every day.

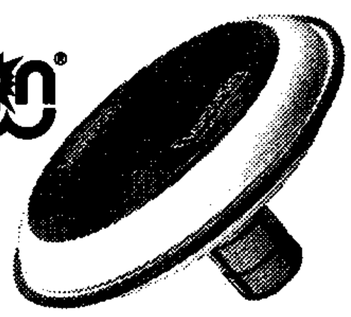
The pond had a large amount of algae, making the water quite opaque... it had become obvious that the water was becoming much clearer and the algae was disappearing which I can attribute only to the Floatron.
Not only is my pool virtually chemical free, the running cost has also come down. I can only recommend it to everyone fed up with timely pool-maintenance, high running cost and the use of chloride, which can cause irritation of the eyes and skin.

Help the environment and those enjoying your pool and spa by contacting Floatron UK on 01256 770246,
email info@floatron.co.uk or visit the web site www.floatron.co.uk to request your free CD.

Yours,

Richard Gibbins

floatron®
Floatron UK
£250.00
incl. p+p



SEEKING AN EXISTENCE which makes (more) sense, away from all hype. artificiality and bullsh**t. www.vergel-alpujarra.com

EYE CONTACT

THAI CONNECTION – Thailand's oldest agency. Over 650 marriages. Videos, brochure: 01582 481725.

NATURAL FRIENDS, where relationships just click. Free brochure 0800 281 933 www.natural-friends.com

EVERGREEN; Alternative to Dating Agencies/clubs. 01992 632250. www.evergreenagency.co.uk

ASIAN INTRODUCTIONS Guaranteed. Suman Marriage Bureau – Established 1972. (ABIA). 0208 571 5145. www.suman-online.com

CONTACT GENUINE SINGLE women & men online 24hrs. 60p/min JCG, tn219dz, 09050 626 088.

CHAT ROOM 25P/MIN 100+ girls online 24hrs. JCG tn219dz 09062 765264

ADDITIONS – 'ATTACHED' Discreet Loving Agency for married people. 020 8905 3304, 020 8958 9657.

LONESOME OXBRIDGE BLUES? Why not meet somebody new at www.BluesMatch.com

RUSSIAN LADIES. ATTRACTIVE & SINCERE seek relationship/marriage. Meet many of Russian ladies in Britain. Unlimited introductions. Excellent success rate. IFM 01708 478697. www.intromoscow.co.uk

EURO-ORIENTAL INTRODUCTIONS Meet your perfect oriental partner in the UK, for love, romance or marriage. Register free! 01442 386 102 info@littlefish-intl.com – http://littlefish-intl.com

MATCHMACKER contact mag for adults. Over 1000 colour photos. Approval copy from MATCHMAKER (X.76), Chorley, PR7 4BS or 01257 483335 (24 hrs).

SPEED DATING – the new way to meet other professionals. 20+ three minute face-to face dates in 1 night 08702 430 935. www.speeddater.co.uk

DATING LINE 0906 752 6299*, Live 1-2-1 Chat 0906 734 3206**, Gay Chat 0906 952 6006*, Adult Contact Ads 0905 235 5819**, Live Psychic 0906 734 3707**. http://www.harmonypartners.co.uk – PO Box 17, Ashford,TN23 7YQ. Calls cost *75p/**£1/min from BT Landlines.

EAST WEST DATING has a data base of oriental ladies living in the UK who would like to meet western men. 020 7351 0750.

SINGLE? Waiting to meet that special Afro-Caribbean partner! Then call NubianLinks on +442075982136.

REGULAR ADULT PARTIES, daytime & Evenings, luxury central London locations, couples & singles welcome, call Gordon 07971 298 111 limelight_club@lycos.com

MICHIAMO - Classy London speed dating for professionals. Chic relaxed London venue, quality not quantity - what have you got to lose, give it a try! www.michiamo.com

MEET THAT SOMEONE SPECIAL with Cloud Nine Connections. Free Membership. Tel: 01702 304 163. www.cloudline-uk.co.uk

FREE BLISSBOX.COM. ADULT DVD & VHS catalogue – Call 00 31 84 870 5950 or send a 42p SAE to Black Dog Ltd, PO Box 15513, 1001 NA, Amsterdam, The Netherlands – EROTICA for discerning adults www.blissbox.com

ATTACHED? SEEKING ROMANCE? Call David at LOVINGLINKS 020 7602 8727. Info line 0906 550 1361 (call cost £1 a minute) – www.lovinglinks.co.uk Discreet dating at the speed of Email.

Replying to a PRIVATE EYE box number? Address your reply like this:

Box No....
PRIVATE EYE
Communications Team
3-11 Pine Street
LONDON
EC1R OJH

WRITER OF MYTHS seeks £6k to complete project. Examples of work available by contacting PO Box 1985.

WOUNDED ULSTER VETERAN. War Pension inadequate. Please Help. Natwest 60-07-41 50777890.

RESPECTABLE SINCERE marriage-minded Thai ladies seek like-minded gentlemen. Free brochure/ video. "Lawrence Lynch – dream weaver" (Louis Theroux BBC). 01562 748600 (24hrs). www.thai-professional.com

EYE CARE

PERSONAL CONFIDENCE Coaching, Central London 020 8856 7301 eve@talktoeve.com

ERECTION PROBLEMS? Solved. Delivered tomorrow – effective 30 minutes. Lowest prices. Telephone 01299 250464.

ERECTION PERFECTION with Viagra from EUROMED. Also Testosterone creams for men/women – enhances sexual ability/libido. 0701 071 8424.

VIAGRA ALTERNATIVE. Famous Blue Pill available without prescription, as featured in the national press. Only £29.99 for 8 tablets (plus postage). Credit card order line 0871 220 3801.

ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION SOLUTION. We supply 100mg pills at competitive rates. Can be split into small size as recommended dosage is 50mg, SILDENAFIL CITRATE KAMAGRA comes in foiled blister packs of 4 complete with medical information sheets. Fast and discreet next day delivery service, recorded or first class delivery. Send cheques or postal orders made payable: DG SUPPLIES PO BOX 10837 Sutton Coldfield Birmingham B74 2ZA. Pack of 4 tabs = £2 pack of 8 tabs = £40 pack of 12 tabs = £55 pack of 20 tabs = £90. Telephone 07751 264233 24hr service

EYE ART

SUPPORT THE ARTS and make a profit! - chaos-uk.com/art/opportunities

TESTIMONIEYE

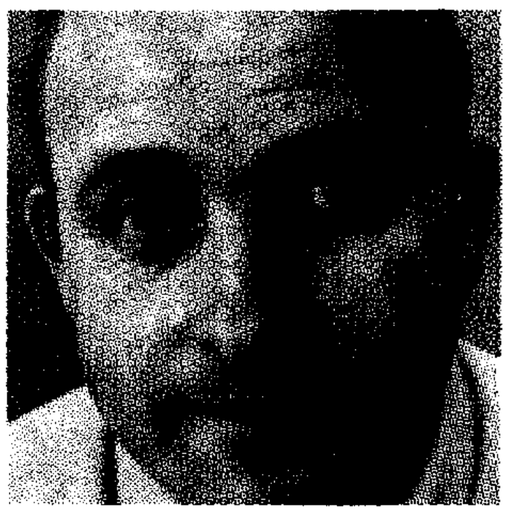
"WHAT FUN I HAD with my last ad! I used to use TIME OUT, but no more! The calibre of men from PRIVATE EYE is far superior." **READER, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

GOVERNMENT AUCTION NEWS

Make **BIG money** from no-reserve **sales.**

Call Mandy for free booklet on 020 7353 7306 or write to Dept PEG5. Wentworth Publishing Ltd, 17 Fleet St, London EC4Y 1AA.

Good godparenting.



emember the kids' names.

emember their birthdays.

Remem r names and birthdays together.

emember not to say,
y, how you've grown.

Rememe to let them win at Scrabble.

Remember you're a parent-in-waiting
(hopefully forever).

And don't forget to slip a handsome
amount each month in this savings fund,
so a few years down the road,
they don't think you're a total prat.

When you invest we'll send you this book by leading personal finance writer Sally Hamilton about "financial family planning."

If you'd invested £25 a month with us for the last 18 years, your child would now have £10,924 compared to the building society return of £7,332*. Your investment is based on Witan, the long-established investment trust, whose managers look after around £1.2 billion for over 55,000 investors†. Call now for an information pack. Right now if your memory's dodgy. **0800 082 81 80 | www.jumpsavings.com**

Ref PE2507

jump

The savings fund for children

Please remember that past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The value of an investment and the income from it can fall as well as rise as a result of market and currency fluctuations and you may not get back the amount originally invested. Banks and building society accounts offer greater security to your capital.

To: Witan Investment Trust, FREEPOST RG453, NEWBURY, RG14 2ZZ. Please send me further details on Jump. Any information you provide will be used to enable us to provide the service for which you have applied, and will only be given to other AMP Group companies or their agents. The data controller is Henderson Global Investors. We would like to contact you for market research purposes and to provide you with information on Henderson Global Investors products and services from time to time. If you do not wish to receive such information, please tick the box. ☐

Witan **investment trust**

Title Initials Surname Telephone

Address Postcode Ref PE2507

*Source: Micropal net income reinvested 18 years to 31/05/03 Building Society Index UK Savings 25,000. £25 a month invested over 5 years £1,181 compared to building society return of £1,534. †Source: as at 31/05/03. Henderson Global Investors is the name under which Henderson Global Investors Limited, Henderson Investment Funds Limited, Henderson Fund Management plc and Henderson Administration Limited (all authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority) provide investment products and services. We may record telephone calls for our mutual protection and to improve customer service. 4 Broadgate, London EC2M 2DA. Scrabble is a registered trademark of J.W. Spear & Sons Ltd., Maidenhead SL6 4UB, England.

They say speed is

relative.

Our 9-3 Aero is descended from jet planes.

Saab's aeronautical legacy of advanced aerodynamics, high performance and technology is never more evident than in a car that wears the 'Aero' badge. With its 210 bhp turboch engine and 0-60mph time of just 7.5 seconds, the new 9-3 Aero delivers performance that l competitors well and truly grounded. And thanks to its exclusive styling kit designed to reduce t by 70%, the 9-3 Aero remains firmly stuck to the tarmac - unlike its jet plane predecessors.

The Saab 9-3 Aero. £22,895 on the road. Visit your nearest Saab deale 0845 300 93 95.
www.saab.co.uk

The new Saab 93 Aero.

OFFICIAL FUEL CONSUMPTION IN MPG (LITRES/100KM): URBAN 22.1 (12.8), EXTRA URBAN 41.5 (6.8), COMBINED 31.4 (9.0). CO_2 EMISSIONS 218 G/KM. ALL FIGURES FOR SAAB 9-3 AERO SPORT SALOON (210BH WITH MANUAL GEARBOX. 9-3 RANGE FROM £18,495.

9 770032 888105 30>